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POLL RESULTS

Do you support the call to delay the implementation of federalization in the CNMI by 180 more days?

Yes	50
No	88
Undecided	3
No opinion	3

Sunday, March 08, 2009



INSIDE



Pep Talk

Trying to buck up a dispirited nation, President Barack Obama on Saturday promised that prosperous days will return.

NATION...Page 15



Mardi Gras

Revelers danced through the streets of Sydney on Saturday at the annual Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Nearly 400 children join PGFC regional contest. **PAGE 2**
US court allows group to join federalization lawsuit. **PAGE 6**

NMC board's McPhetres resigns

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Less than 11 months after being named to the post, Agnes McPhetres resigned Friday as a member of the Northern Marianas College board of regents, citing several issues she has with the college's management.

Her resignation was confirmed yesterday by regents chair Charles V. Cepeda, who said he received a copy of McPhetres' resignation letter addressed to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. Cepeda,



McPhetres

however, declined to comment, citing "elements" in the correspondence that he cannot comment on at present.

In her letter to Fitial Friday, McPhetres, a former

NMC president, voiced her frustration and disappointment with the management practices being employed by the incumbent, Dr. Carmen Fernandez, who McPhetres said lacks transparency and forthrightness in dealing with the board and the

See NMC on Page 4

'Labor has jurisdiction over labor bonds'

Judge: Workers fail to get awards due to Labor's inaction to enforce bonds

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has ruled that the CNMI Department of

Labor has exclusive jurisdiction over alien workers attempting to collect on labor bonds and that the courts do not have the authority to enforce these bonds.

In a ruling issued Thursday, Associate Judge Perry B. Inos dismissed for lack of jurisdiction the consolidated small claims filed by 11 Chinese workers against bonding companies Oceania Insurance Corp. and Royal Crown Insurance Corp.

See LABOR on Page 4

MBA sweeps mock trial competition

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Marianas Baptist Academy marked a historic victory Satur-

day after ruling the 11th Annual CNMI Mock Trial competition, besting seven other teams for the honor to represent the CNMI in the national contest.

MBA's victory was a first by the school in the contest's history since 1999.

Besides ruling the champion, See MBA on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Marianas Baptist Academy mock trial team pose for the camera after their victory last Saturday at the 11th Annual CNMI Mock Trial Competition at the Susupe court. From left are teacher-coach Cameron Armstrong, Chan Woo Lee, Sung Jun Hwang, Jessica Lee, Yong Hwa Choi, So Young Lee, Xiao Tian Falig, Laura Lee, Michael Sheu, Dencio Manglona, and attorney-coach Eric Nelson.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Efrain F. Camacho, right, organizer of Mathcounts in the CNMI for 15 years, poses with the 2009 State Mathcounts Competition winners who will be competing in the national level in Florida, during Saturday's awarding ceremonies at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. From left, first place winner Choi Ji Hoon of Calvary Christian Academy, second place winner Jun Hyeon Jun of Saipan International School, third place winner Oh Hye Young of Marianas Baptist Academy, and fourth place winner Jang Min Jeong, also of Calvary Christian Academy.

Four students earn trip to national Mathcounts

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Four math wizards were named CNMI representatives to the national Mathcounts competition in Florida this year after they ruled the state contest Saturday at the Multi-

RELATED NEWS

NMI bids goodbye to Mathcounts competition. **PAGE 3**

Purpose Center in Susupe. Calvary Christian Acad- See FOUR on Page 4

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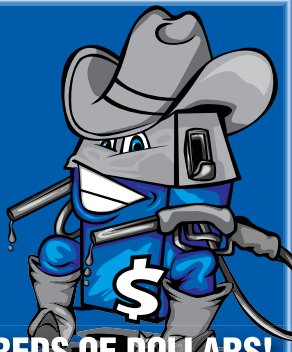
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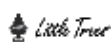
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Local



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Parents and students anxiously await the announcement of room numbers for specific Primary Grades Forensic Conference competitions at Marianas High School in Susupe on Saturday.

Nearly 400 children join PGFC's regional contest

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Nearly 400 students from kindergarten to sixth grade joined the regional primary forensic league competition held at Marianas High School on Saturday.

Approximately 800 entries from various contest categories entered the final competition, which qualifies ribbon winners in the last four preliminary rounds of PGFC.

The event was organized by the National Forensic League Board and supported by the CNMI Public School System.

According to Harold Easton, chairman of the NFL board, there

has been a rising trend in the number of participants every year.

"This marked the fifth year for PGFC and we're noting bigger turnouts every year," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Students competed in the following contest categories: dramatic, humorous interpretation, duo, impromptu, choral speaking, and reader's forum.

Five winners were named for each category per grade level where medals were awarded to the top three and ribbons for fourth and fifth placers.

Unlike the national forensic league, which is also organized by the NFL board, the PGFC has no national event that it can



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Five-year-old Holly Sarah Liban, left, gestures as she beautifully delivers *The Tell Tale Heart* by Edgar Allan Poe during a reader's forum competition at the Primary Grades Forensic Conference at Marianas High School in Susupe on Saturday.

send delegates to.

Easton said it is the event's objective to encourage and develop other skills of students besides the academic.

"Little kids need to learn forensic, to stand and speak in front of people, learn how to articulate and boost their confidence. It is also a way to promote appreciation of literature," he said.

Easton noted that participants are becoming increasingly competitive each year.

Saturday's event draw hundreds of spectators, mostly composed of families giving support to their children.

While the competition proper were ongoing in the classrooms, kids of all ages were also seen enjoying going around the campus, mingling with their friends and playmates while parents were assisting and watching their kids' performances.

A fifth grader from San Antonio Elementary, Annabele Manzo, said she is always excited about PGFC.

She competed both in oral speaking and reader's forum where she hoped to win honors.

Like other students in the event, Manzo said she wants to become a better public speaker.

During the final round of a reader's forum category, 5-year-old Holly Sarah Liban of Golden Harvest International School had the audience under her spell in her interpretative performance *The Tell Tale Heart*, by Edgar Allan Poe.

She said she hopes to get the gold medal.

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NMI bids goodbye to Mathcounts competition

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After 15 successful years of holding the Mathcounts competition on the island, the event's organizer and founder has decided to stop the event until a "good opportunity" comes to EFC Engineers & Architects in the future.

This was announced by Efrain Camacho, president and owner of the company, during Saturday's state contest at the Multi-Purpose Center.

"It's going to be the last year for Mathcounts as sponsored and organized by EFC Engineers & Architects," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho said the decision was reached after consulting with his family members, whom he admitted were saddened by the move.

"It was very emotional...and they asked why. However, they understand, accepted and supported my decision," he said.

It costs the company about \$10,000 every year to hold and send the delegates to the states.

Camacho also admitted that the current state of the economy contributed to his decision.

When asked about the possibility of reviving the competition, Camacho vowed to do so. "It's my desire and intention...in the future."

Camacho, who is also the executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, has put on hold or on "inactive status" EFC Engineers & Architects upon assuming the government post. Since then, the firm has not accepted any projects and has released all of its eight personnel, he said.

"I always have the desire to

help the community and, even if it's a huge sacrifice for me, I decided to help the government on a larger scale and that's through accepting the CPA post," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He promised to put his company on "active" status once he leaves his government post.

Camacho encouraged students to continue studying and loving math and science.

"I encourage students to continue study math and science...because the rewards are huge," he said.

Camacho and his wife, Martha, recalled how they started the Mathcounts competition in 1994, patterned after the nationally recognized contest which gives students the opportunity to travel and compete with other mathletes from all over the United States.

Since its inception, a total of 64 local students have been sent to various national Mathcounts events. Majority were first-timers in the U.S. mainland.

'MBA, CCA rule in 15 years'

In the 15-year history of the local competition, only two schools have ruled the state Mathcounts rounds.

Marianas Baptist Academy held the prestigious title since its start in 1994 through 2006.

Calvary Christian Academy stole the title in 2007 but MBA mathletes managed to take it back in 2008.

CCA successfully returned on Saturday to regain the honor of holding the perpetual trophy until the revival of the competition

in the future.

Camacho, during Saturday's event, recognized all the hard-working volunteers for the competition, majority of whom are former staff of EFC Engineers & Architects.

"Without them, Mathcounts will never be here," he added.

'Loss of great opportunity'

MBA principal Ramir Trinidad, a long-time CNMI coach to the national competition, said the decision to stop Mathcounts means the loss of a great opportunity for local students.

"It was a sad news," he told



Camacho

RELATED NEWS

■ Mathcounts photo spread.
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Saipan Tribune.

Trinidad said the decision has "discouraged" a lot of parents. "They were discouraged because this is one way to enhance the ability to apply math and critical thinking."

Trinidad's school was the longest serving champion of the competition for 13 years. He was also named coach to the national event for 14 years.

The MBA principal urged schools and parents to step up and find ways to keep the competition going.

"Although some parents actually want to help, I must admit that it's not too easy to organize. We need a lot of support from the community and the schools to make it happen," he said, conceding that the "bad state" of economy may hinder the community and private sector from giving financial assistance.

The principal disclosed that many of MBA's former mathletes are now professional engineers.

"This is more than a competition. This event helps a lot in developing our mathletes for the future. I can say that it provided us amazing experiences and makes our students more competitive," he added.


This year's winning coach, Vanessa Pritchard of Calvary Christian Academy, hopes that somebody will step in to sponsor the event.

"We're very sad...but we understand and respect the decision," she said.


Ji Hoon Choi of CCA said: "I feel bad...and sorry for the next 6-7th graders who may not be able to get the same rewarding experiences we had from Mathcounts."

He admitted that it's everyone's desire to be in the Mathcounts every year.

For Saipan International School's Hyeon Jon Jun, "a great opportunity" for junior high school students will be lost.



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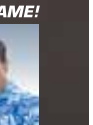
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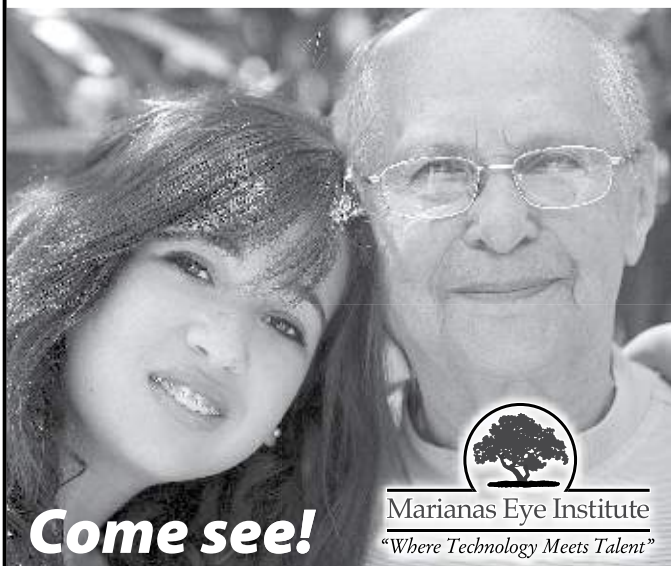







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USCIS opens Saipan office tomorrow

The Department of Homeland Security’s U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will celebrate the opening of its first office in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands tomorrow, March 10, 2009.

The grand opening ceremony for

the Application Support Center will be held at 10:30am, at the TSL Plaza in Garapan, Saipan.

“This opening is a very important step, allowing USCIS to better serve the people of CNMI,” said Michael Aytes, USCIS Acting Deputy Director,

who will travel to Saipan for the grand opening. “People from the Commonwealth will no longer have to travel to Guam for fingerprinting, biometrics, or federal immigration information.”

The Application Support Center opened in the TSL Plaza in Garapan on March 2, 2009, with the first week devoted to the initial on-island appoint-

ments and setting up the new office. The opening of the ASC is the culmination of months of work to ensure that those in the CNMI will be able to obtain information and other services from USCIS.

In addition to providing the traditional service of fingerprinting and biometric services, the ASC will also offer information appointments for general immi-

gration inquiries through. Appointments are made using InfoPass, a multilingual Web-based system that is free on www.uscis.gov. USCIS’s customer service line (800) 375-5283 is now accessible toll-free from the CNMI, and the most current information about federal immigration in relation to the CNMI is available in the Press Room of www.uscis.gov.

MBA

From Page 1

onship round, three of its members were named recipients of three special awards: Dencio Manglona was recognized as best defense attorney; Xiao Tian Falig, best defense witness; and Laura Lee, best prosecution witness.

For four consecutive years, MBA teams have been constant opponents in the championship round but they never made it to the nationals until now.

Attorney coach Eric Nelson said the students’ hard work paid off.

“MBA has always been a very good school and these students have been in the final round for a number of years...

but didn’t make it to the national. We’re very happy and very proud that we made it this time!” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Nelson said the group started preparing for the competition since November and has been meeting with the group for long hours each day.

“They’ve been working very hard for this...and extremely excited to go this far. Seeing how well the competition was in the last two days, we’re very proud of what they achieved,” he added.

Nelson also lauded the performance demonstrated by the opposing team of Mount Carmel School, the defending champion.

“The MCS team went extraordinarily good [today]. All members showed unbelievable talents and this is why I

can say the whole island has a lot to be proud of [its students],” he said.

MBA principal Ramir Trinidad said the school team has constantly given honor to the school. “They did a lot of good job and MBA is very proud of our team. They deserve to go to the national,” he said, acknowledging the efforts put in by coaches and teachers.

This year, eight teams from private and public high schools totaling about 70 students competed for the title.

The MBA team members who will advance to the national level in Atlanta, Georgia, this year include Yong Hwa Choi, Xia Tian Falig, Chan Woo Lee, Jessica Lee, Laura Lee, Dencio Manglona, and So Young Lee.

Xia Tian Falig described the occa-

sion a “sweet victory for MBA.”

“MBA, after four long years of hard work, finally made it! This is a sweet victory for us,” the emotional student said.

Falig, also the best prosecution attorney, said it took a lot of hard work to prepare for the competition. “It’s a good feeling,” said the student about winning. Falig has been joining the mock trial contest for three years now.

Laura Lee said it has been her desire to win the championship round for MBA.

“It’s something I truly wanted...to win and break the record for MBA,” she said, adding that her two years’ experience with the team brought her rewarding experiences and skills.

She vowed to do her best and prepare for the national team.

So Young Lee echoed her colleague’s sentiments. She admitted being disappointed every time they didn’t make it. “This is truly a memorable day,” she said. Lee has been with the MBA mock trial team for the last three years.

Second best team members of MCS included So Yoon Lee, Marian Kristina Salas Balajadia, Min Joo Jung, Kevin Harvey Gatmaitan Bautista, Keno Iwa Candalla San Pablo, Min Kyung Kim, and Chiaki Hirosawa.

The mock trial competition is designed to give students an inside perspective of the legal system and provide understanding of legal issues.

It is organized by the CNMI Bar Association in collaboration with the Public School System.

FOUR

From Page 1

emy’s 13-year-old Ji Hoon Choi, who emerged overall best performer, will lead the island’s delegates that include three other mathletes: Hyeon Joon Jun from Saipan International School, Hye Young Oh from Marianas Baptist Academy, and CCA’s Min Jeong Jang.

The students emerged as the top four performers in the individual countdown round of the competition and will advance to the national competition in May.

A total of 95 students from 12 public and private schools competed in the event, which aimed to select the Commonwealth’s bets to the national contest where they will face off with delegates from all

over the United States.

Choi, a first-timer to the national competition, said he wasn’t expecting this honor.

“I wasn’t expecting it. I feel great!” he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that he is excited to go to the U.S. mainland for the first time.

Choi also topped the individual countdown during the chapter competition last month.

He promised to work harder for the national event.

For the past three years, SIS’ Hyeon Joon Jun has been hoping to become a member of the national delegate. His fourth try was apparently the charm.

“I am glad that I made it this year! It’s a great feeling...because this is the first time that I will be traveling to the States,” he said.

He looks forward to the “exciting ex-

periences” he will have at the national level.

The four students will be accompanied by this year’s winning team coach, Vanessa Pritchard from Calvary Christian Academy, who also vowed to do her best for the competition.

“We’re really excited and we’re happy that two of our students from CCA will be traveling to the national event,” she said.

Pritchard’s Team A from CCA was also adjudged the overall team winner, garnering 27.75 percent, and will hold the perpetual trophy until the next team successor is named. MBA’s Team A emerged the second best group with 24.50 percent.

Hailed third best were members of the SIS Team A with 23 percent, while fourth place went to Mount Carmel School Team A with 17.25 percent.

Students in the Top Ten and were awarded plaques included SIS’ Hyeon Joon Jun; CCA’s Ji Hoon Choi; MBA’s Hye Young Oh; MCS’ Feng Liang Lizama; CCA’s Min Jeong Jang; MBA’s Se Young Hwang; CCA’s Han Sol Yu; CCA’s Won Woo Choi; MBA’s Young Eun Lee; and CCA’s Kevin Hwang.

The event’s organizer, EFC Engineers & Architects, also named Hyeon Joon Jun as honorable mention for getting the highest overall individual score of 27 percent.

According to state and chapter competition coordinator Martha Camacho, the national contest will be held at Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin Resort in Florida.

Mathcounts, organized by EFC Engineer & Architects, is an annual competition that challenges students

in high-level mathematical ability and gives them the opportunity to compete nationally.

Camacho said they are elated at the success of the event, which marked its 15th year in the CNMI.

The Mathcounts competition motivates students to do upper level math, measure higher thinking skills of participants, and provides a venue and opportunity for young talents to practice their mathematical capabilities.

Event sponsors include EFC Engineers and Architects, DFS Saipan, Chong’s Corp., IT&E, Subway, Coca Cola, Foremost, JoeTen Foundation, Deloitte & Touche, National Office Supply, Hanam Market, Dolphin Wholesale, Marianas Star, Korea Hardware, Garapan Market, Tae Wo, and Yonsei Academy.

LABOR

From Page 1

The issue stems from a Labor advice for alien workers to file small claims suits in the Superior Court to recover the awards granted them by Labor against their employers.

Citing a 2007 Superior Court decision, however, Inos said the jurisdiction to enforce bonds issued pursuant to the CNMI Nonresident Workers Act is vested solely with Labor.

“The NWA’s extensive statutory and

regulatory scheme regarding the enforcement of these bonds again leads this court to conclude that ‘the Legislature has not intended to allow such suits,’” the judge said.

The issue came about after the employers of the 11 complainants breached their employment contracts, prompting the workers to file complaints with Labor. At the hearings, the Labor Administrative Hearing Officer awarded each worker back wages and other relief against their employers. Labor, however, did not institute separate proceedings against the defendants’

insurance companies, although the defendants were each served with a notice of claim concerning the plaintiffs’ awards. Presently, the insurance companies have made no payments on the labor bonds. Labor has not started any action to enforce any of its claims on the bonds.

At the advice of Labor, the workers filed complaints in the Superior Court’s Small Claims Division so they will be paid by the insurance companies directly.

In his decision, Inos noted that the primary reason the workers are un-

able to recover the awards granted them by Labor is because Labor has thus far not attempted to enforce the insurance companies’ obligations under the labor bonds.

“Although there were administrative proceedings that preceded these actions, the plaintiffs have not filed petitions for judicial review or for mandamus to compel Labor to take action,” Inos said.

Instead, the judge said, the workers’ claims are apparently based on the theory that they are third-party beneficiaries of the labor bonds and therefore possess a right to enforce the bonds

independent of the statutory scheme embodied in the NWA.

“Although the plaintiffs might make persuasive arguments concerning their right to bring these actions as third-party beneficiaries under common law principles, the fact that Labor has exclusive jurisdiction over these particular labor bonds makes such arguments irrelevant,” Inos said.

Attorney Robert Myers, counsel for some 127 alien workers, has filed a class action suit against Labor and some of its key officials over the same bonding issue.

NMC

From Page 1

accrediting commission.

“I have lost faith and trust in the president’s ability to lead our institution into the future. Under such circumstances, I can no longer be an effective board member,” McPhetres told the governor.

Fernandez could not be immediately sought for comments yesterday.

The former NMC president claimed that “Dr. Fernandez lacks what it takes to gain confidence and the commitment of those faculty and staff who are bold enough to voice publicly their dissatisfaction with her management of the institution.”

McPhetres is the third board mem-

ber to quit the regency in less than two years since Fernandez took office. The first ones were Eloise Furey and Joey San Nicolas.

‘Secret’ meeting

By resigning from her post, McPhetres said she “will no longer be restrained in being critical of the manner in which the institution is being led by an individual who is causing considerable harm due to her lack of scruples.”

McPhetres informed the governor that a group of staff, faculty and administrators had asked to meet with her but she suggested instead that the group go through proper channels.

“Being a board member, I have been compelled to tell them that I cannot meet with them. I suggest taking it through appropriate chan-

nels. However, this is becoming an increasingly untenable position for me for I feel that I am just turning my back to a group that very much needs to be heard,” she said.

Saipan Tribune learned that the group meeting took place at a residence of a faculty member, where they invited some lawmakers.

McPhetres said the board had called her on Thursday, asking her to explain herself about instigating the “meeting.” She said she did not attend the meeting, much more instigate it.

“The pain I had to go through as I sat and had to defend myself against obvious lies was unbearable,” she said.

She expressed disappointment over how a professional educator such as the president “could stoop so low as to accuse a well-intentioned fellow educator

of unsubstantiated actions.”

McPhetres told the governor it appears that these allegations were brought to the attention of the accrediting commission with the sole purpose of tarnishing her reputation and making her the scapegoat of the current turmoil within the college.

“I find this to be exceedingly degrading and unprofessional...and I refuse to tolerate it,” she added.

‘Vindictive, out of vengeance’

The leader of Taotao Tano CNMI Inc., Gregorio Cruz Jr., came to Fernandez’s defense, describing McPhetres’ letter as “vindictive.”

He said he finds McPhetres’ complaints against the NMC president interesting in that the issue of mismanagement, questionable hirings,

promotions, unjustified salary increases, improper termination, embezzlement and cover-ups started way during McPhetres’ term in office at NMC.

He viewed McPhetres resignation as immature, unprofessional, vindictive and out of vengeance.

“The issues being raised today are the same issues raised years ago. One important and critical issue is the fact the any local in our community who had been a president at NMC never lasted. Why? [Internal] loyalists ensured that they never last, especially when a president is making major changes for the betterment of NMC and its students. We strongly believe that Mrs. McPhetres had maintained control of NMC even after she retired,” Cruz said in a statement issued yesterday.

Over 1,500 letters want better immigration status

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 1,500 letters from U.S. citizen children of foreign workers, immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, long-term guest workers and others in the community wrote personal letters to members of the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, asking for an improved immigration status for themselves and their families once the transition to federal immigration begins on June 1.

Many of the letters also ask for federalization to be implemented on June 1 as scheduled.

Yesterday, hundreds of adults and children turned in their handwritten letters to members of the United Workers Movement NMI, the Coalition of United Workers NMI, and the Human Dignity Movement at the Kilili Beach pavilion in Susupe.

The letters were scanned and sent to Florida-based activist Wendy Doromal, who will hand-deliver them to members of the U.S. Congress and federal agencies that are working on the regulations implementing federal immigration in the CNMI.

Doromal said the letter writing

campaign gives a "human face" to those who will be affected by federalization.

Ten-year-old Noshin T. Omar was one of those who wrote a letter yesterday, along with a drawing of a girl holding a placard that reads, "Give our parents U.S. citizenship."

Omar, in her handwritten letter, said she and her 3-year-old sister and 10-year-old brother have parents who have been working in the CNMI since 1995. Their parents are from Bangladesh.

"If my parents go back to their country, no one will take care of us," Omar said. "We feel safe and comfortable here."

Omar's parents are among those foreign workers who fear that once federalization takes effect, they may be sent home.

Rene Reyes, president of the Coalition of United Workers NMI, said that from Saipan alone, they received 840 letters, while 360 are from Tinian, and 300 are from Rota.

As of 3:30pm yesterday, people were still arriving at the pavilion to either write their letters or hand them to the organizers of the letter writing campaign, making the total number of letters exceed 1,500 at press time.

"We never thought we'll re-



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Guest workers sign an attendance sheet during yesterday's letter writing campaign at the Kilili Beach pavilion in Susupe. The campaign has so far gathered over 1,500 letters asking the federal government to grant an immigration status to them or their relatives when federalization takes effect June 1.

ceive this many letters in one day," Reyes told Saipan Tribune.

Reyes said letter senders are hopeful that the federal government will give weight to their concerns of granting them or their relatives a U.S. immigration status once federalization takes effect.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement NMI, said the success of the letter writing campaign lies in the three workers groups coming together.

"A united force can make a significant change. Our time is short so we need to work now together. The volunteers also helped make this event successful," he said.

Anita Reyes, in her letter written in Tagalog, asked the federal government not to delay for 180 days the start of the transition to

a federal immigration system.

Simon Sin also wrote in his letter that the implementation of federalization should not be delayed, and asked the federal government to waive the green card fees for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens.

"Please let them have a certain exemption on the fees. Otherwise, most of them cannot apply for green card and then be deported [from the CNMI]," Sin said.

Most of the letters were written by Filipinos and their U.S. citizen relatives, followed by Chinese, Koreans, Thais, Nepalese, Bangladeshis and other Asians.

The deadline for sending letters is on Friday, March 13, according to Reyes.

Doromal said the campaign

See OVER on Page 6

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Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana Ofisinan I Gubietno Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIAN MAPROPONE POT ATKILON TÂNO' PUPBLIKU

Kinonsiste ni Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, I Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupbliku man nânâ'i' notisia pot I intension na para u ma'atkila I tano' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana. Maseha hâyi na petsona gi pupbliku henerât siha muna halom opinion, infotmasion, kinontran testimonio pot para u kuentâyi I propositu I Kontrâtan Atkilon. Ni maprobeniyi mäs ginen I Lai Pupbliku 15-2, manisisita para u mapupblika I man impotânte na infotmasion gi sigente:

- i. I tano' pupbliku ni ma'atkila madeskribi kumo Sitio Numiro 190 E 01 a konsiste kâsi 4,809 square meters menos osino mäs, ni gaige gi Lower Base giya Saipan. Kopian I lugât I sitio gaige gi Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupbliku para u ma'ina.
- ii. I para u atkila I Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc., un koporasion giya CNMI. I Direktot I Kuetpon I koporasion I man sigente: si Liberato C. Legaspi, Marie Christine T. Legaspi, Alejo C. Legaspi, yan si Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi.
I presidente I koporasion si Liberato C. Legaspi. I segundon I presidete si Marie Christine T. Legaspi. I sekretário si Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi. I tressurerun si Alejo C. Legaspi.
- ii. Si Siñot Liberato C. Legaspi yan si Siñot Noel Masongsong a negosio I kontrâta para I mapropone na atkilon.
- iii. I para u fanatkila debi u na'setbi i tano' solamenti para u na'guaha' fasilidât para muna'hanao kâtga siha.
I tiempion I mapropositu na Kontrâtan Atkilon bente-singko años (25 yrs.), gai' chânsa para u ekstiende para talo kinse años (15 yrs.).
I mapropositu na âpas atkilon gi sakkan durânten I tiempo sigun I mapega na presiu pot I baliña I lugât.
- v. I kabâles na kopian I Kontrâtan Atkilon siha u machule' gi Ofisinan I Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupbliku, ni gaige gi mina dos na bibienda gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, giya Saipan, mina dos bibienda gi Bank of Saipan Commercial Building giya Luta, fine'nina na bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building giya Tinian.
- vi. Ti maresibe' otro na klâsen propositu ni I Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupbliku ni para u ma'atkila I tano' giya Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. I Sekretário gi Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupbliku siempre a aksepta tinige' opinion, mensâhen kinontra yan testimonio osino otro siha na propositu ginen I man enteresao na petsona gi pat ântes di Matso 23, 2009 gi Ofisinan I Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupbliku ni gaige giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekki atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téel Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong ischil mángamangiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngali milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ekki bwáári Lot No.190 E 01, eyoor faawu sangaras walabwughúw tiwoow (4,809 square meters), elap me ngäre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor llól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngare óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schéshchéél schóól akkilon nge Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc., CNMI corporation. Schóóy mwiisch mellol Corporation nge Liberato C. Legaspi, Marie Christine T. Legaspi, Alejo C. Legaspi, me Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi.
Schóóy assamwool nge Liberato C. Legaspi, Vice President nge Marie Christine T. Legaspi, sekkretario nge Alejo C. Legaspi, treasurer nge Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi.
- iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Liberato C. Legaspi me Mr. Noel C. Masongsong.
- iv. Schóóy akkilon ebwe yáali bwuley reel leliyel ammwelil kkaragha schagh.
Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon ebwe ruweigh me limwoow ráagh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limwoow ráagh (15 years).
Pomwol akkilon ebwe mwir sáangi llapal méél falúw (value of the property) fengal me milikka re ayuuw mellol faluw.
- v. Emmwel óubwe bwughil tilighial akkilon mellól bwulasiyool ammwelil falúweer toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Buiding, Luuta; me ngäre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tehúlúyól.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo akkáaw pomwol akkilon yeel me Lower Base, Saipan.
Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ebwe bwughil aweewe kkaal, aingiingil, mereer amweyút aramas mmwal schagh Mááilap (March) 23, 2009 mellól Depattamentool Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me Tehúlúyól..

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 190 E 01, containing an area of approximately 4,809 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- iii. The prospective lessee is Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc., a CNMI corporation. The board of directors of the corporation are Liberato C. Legaspi, Marie Christine T. Legaspi, Alejo C. Legaspi, and Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi.
The President of the corporation is Liberato C. Legaspi. The vice president is Marie Christine T. Legaspi. The secretary is Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi. The Treasurer is Alejo C. Legaspi.
- iv. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Liberato C. Legaspi and Mr. Noel C. Masongsong.
- v. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a freight forwarding facility.
The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.
The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property including existing structures.
- v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before March 23, 2009 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

US court allows local group to join federalization lawsuit

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for Washington, D.C. Judge Paul L. Friedman granted the request of the CNMI Descent for Self-Government and Indigenous Rights Inc. to join the CNMI government's lawsuit against federalization.

However, the judge denied the local group's request for time to present oral arguments.

In a March 6 memorandum opinion and order, Friedman granted CNMI Descent's motion to file a brief and participate as amicus curiae in the case.

The term amicus curiae (friends of the court) refers to someone not a party to a case who offers information on a point of law or some other aspect of a case to assist the court in deciding an issue or issues. It is, however, the court's discretion whether to accept the volunteered information.

"Upon careful consideration, the court concludes that CNMI Descent's proposed amicus brief will assist the court in this matter because it includes unique arguments not to be found in the

parties' briefs," said Friedman.

But Friedman said the court need not hear oral argument from CNMI Descent at the upcoming motions hearing in order to obtain the full benefit of CNMI Descent's views.

In his three-page order, Friedman also rescheduled the motions hearing on March 12, from the original schedule of 10am to 9:30am.

The court requires the CNMI government to make a 40-minute presentation of its claims and arguments in support of its motion for a preliminary injunction.

It also asks the U.S. government to make a 40-minute argument in support of their motion to dismiss and in opposition to plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction.

Each party will also be granted 20 minutes for their rebuttals.

Former House Speaker Oscar Rasa, the official spokesman and adviser of the CNMI Descent for Self-Government and Indigenous Rights Inc., earlier said that while the administration's arguments rely heavily on the potential economic harm that the federalization law will bring about, their

group will focus on the right to self-government as embodied in the Covenant between the CNMI and the U.S. government.

He said the issue of self-government is more fundamental than economic issues.

The CNMI Descent is represented by Atty. John E. Dury who is based in Washington, D.C., and Atty. Robert J. O'Connor of the Saipan-based O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes law firm.

The CNMI government, represented by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's special legal counsel Howard P. Willens and the Washington, D.C.-based Jenner & Block LLP law firm, does not oppose CNMI Descent's amicus brief.

But in its March 5 filing, the CNMI government opposed allotting any of the time set aside for oral argument to the proposed amicus.

Lawyers for the U.S. government, in a March 6 filing, opposed CNMI Descent's motion to participate as amicus curiae, and its motion for leave to present oral argument for 10 minutes at the motions hearing.

OVER

From Page 5

has received an overwhelming

response from guest workers, U.S. citizen children of foreign workers, spouses and children of citizens from the Freely Associated States, alien spouses of

U.S. citizens, CNMI permanent residents, widow and widower of U.S. citizens and alien spouses divorced from their U.S. citizen spouses.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS State Board of Education, Public School System

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NMI to get \$1.3M to retrain, find jobs for workers

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Labor announced yesterday that the CNMI will receive \$1.3 million from the recently enacted stimulus bill that will be used to train and help employees return to the workforce.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Labor Department said that Guam will receive a total of \$3,732,758. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will net a total of \$1,312,737. American Samoa will receive \$462,530 and Palau \$379,279.

These amounts represent allotment levels for Labor Department-administered employment and training programs funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The workforce investment system will use the \$3.51 bil-

lion to help Americans get back to work through the national network of One-Stop Career Centers.

"In his recent address to the nation, President Obama asked every American to commit to at least one year or more of higher education or career training," said Secretary of Labor Hil

L. Solis. "This significant investment in employment and training presents a tremendous opportunity for workers and employers across the country. Through One-Stop Career Centers, unemployed, underemployed and dislocated workers can access career counseling, skill assessment, job search as-

sistance, training and other services to upgrade their skills and find new jobs."

The workforce investment system will use Recovery Act funds to increase service levels and address immediate employment needs by targeting significant funding toward low-income, low-skilled Americans. The funds announced yesterday also will support significantly more youth employment opportunities for the summer of 2009.

Americans can access these services through the national network of One-Stop Career Centers. To find a local One-Stop Career Center, visit

<http://www.servicelocator.org> or call 877-348-0502 or TTY 877-348-0501. Online resources to support job searches, career exploration and planning for education and training can be found at <http://careeronestop.org>.

The Recovery Act allotments will supplement selected programs authorized by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Wagner-Peyser Act. Announcements for other Department of Labor Recovery Act funds, including competitive grants to support training in high-growth and emerging industries, such as green jobs and health care, are forthcoming.

Questions from the public regarding these allotments and planning requirements may be directed to the appropriate re-

gional office of the Labor Department's Employment and Training Administration or to the agency's Recovery Act e-

mail address: eta.stimulus@dol.gov. Information can also be found at ETA's Web site at www.doleta.gov. (PR)

ON THE NET

- To find a local One-Stop Career Center:
Visit <http://www.servicelocator.org>
Call 877-348-0502 or TTY 877-348-0501.
- Online resources: <http://careeronestop.org>
- Web site: www.doleta.gov

Stimulus money can be used to restore teachers' positions

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System will use portion of the stimulus money it will get from the federal government to restore several teacher positions, according to the Board of Education.

BOE chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita said the federal law cites five areas where the stimulus money may be spent: to improve data collection, assessment, restoration of teacher posts, school modernization, and facility maintenance.

Blanco-Maratita said that CNMI public schools stand to get 81.8 percent of the \$48 million allotted for the CNMI under the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The rest, Blanco-Maratita said, will go to the other CNMI projects.

She was elated upon determining that public schools can use the money to hire teachers, a concern that hasn't been fully addressed by local appropriation.

Under the continuing budget resolution, PSS is allocated only \$35 million, of which \$32 million is for personnel cost.

Due to limited funding every year, majority of schools have oversized classes and not enough teachers.

Current student to teacher ratio in many of the schools is 28:1.

The system has been barred from hiring additional employees because of budget constraints for many years.

Even replacement positions are sometimes not filled due to the same problem.

"With the stimulus fund, that concern would soon be addressed," Blanco-Maratita said.

PSS has over 500 teachers and more than 11,000 students from Kindergarten to 12th grade. It has 20 public schools majority of which lack manpower.

She said Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan is scheduled to complete the PSS packet grant application this week.

"The application for PSS is ready and would soon be submitted to the governor to be included in the other [packet] applications," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

During Thursday's press conference, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

said the CNMI can get up to \$100 million in noncompetitive grants but must compete with other states to get an additional \$338.5 million.

He said the funding provided for NMI education will enable the system to build ad-

ditional facilities and continue maintenance and rehabilitation of schools.

PSS has asked the governor to reprogram some \$8.2 million in CIP money for the immediate renovation and construction of school buildings.

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

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3 rescued from disabled Rota-bound boat

GUAM—Coast Guard Cutter *Assateague* rescued yesterday three men from an 18-foot vessel that was disabled and adrift for over 20-hours.

The vessel *Anastasia* out of Hagatna, Guam, became disabled on a transit from Hagatna Boat Basin to Rota Saturday. The vessel with three men on board was found 22 nautical miles northwest of

Ritidian Point and was drifting to the west.

The crew of *Assateague* launched a small boat to accomplish the rescue of the three men. Lt. James Jarnac, Commanding Officer of *Assateague*, reported that the situation was very hazardous due to 10-foot waves and 22-knot winds.

The crew of *Assateague* arrived on scene during the night

and found the disabled vessel. Waiting until daylight they began the rescue effort yesterday morning and three hours later safely removed the three men from *Anastasia*. The men were brought back to Guam.

The success of this search and rescue effort was attributed to the float plan that was left with family members who alerted the Coast Guard

when *Anastasia* had not arrived on Rota as planned yesterday. Credit can also be given to the owner of *Anastasia* who prepared for the trip with necessary safety equipment, including flares and a VHF radio. Early notification by the family and good radio communication made the task of locating *Anastasia* a simple one. (USCG)

Oversight hearing on federalization delay questioned

Taotao Tano CNMI Association Inc. president Gregorio Cruz Jr. has asked U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna Christensen, chair of the House Insular Affairs Subcommittee, about the reason for considering an oversight hearing on delaying federalization by 180 days.

Cruz, in a March 6 letter to Christensen, said holding an oversight hearing to further delay federalization set for June 1 "is an outright mockery and contradictory to the actual intent and purpose of Public Law 110-229."

"If billions of funding are ap-

propriated financing the war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan, we see no reason why \$96 million would be a problem to the Department of Homeland Security financing border security concerns in the Northern Mariana Islands," said Cruz.

Taotao Tano is the only en-

tity to formally ask DHS not to delay federalization, among those who submitted comments to DHS's interim final rule on the establishment of U.S. ports in the CNMI and the establishment of a Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program. (Huidee V. Eugenio)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 9, 1999

PR in financial limbo

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday hinted he may have to implement a new round of tax increase should the Saipan Chamber of Commerce insist the government hires a public relations firm that will defend CNMI against relentless media attacks. Worried that the negative publicities would harm efforts to attract investments into the Northern Marianas, businessmen are pushing the administration to tap a PR agent to help refurbish the commonwealth's tarnished image in the international community. The private sector has offered to pitch in money for the campaign in order to reduce the funds the cash-strapped government would have to contribute for retaining a lobbyist.

Panel formed to assess FAS migration costs

A multi-agency working group whose task is to account for every dollar spent for hosting Micronesians was created by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in fresh attempt to recover millions of dollars in unpaid Compact Impact cost from the federal government. The working group was put in place in an apparent response to plans of the White House to chop off 51 percent to \$5.6 million the FY 2000 appropriation for CNMI's Capital Improvement Projects in favor of Guam. The commonwealth stands to lose over \$16 million in the next three years under the Washington's spending plan despite a seven-year financial assistance agreement ratified in 1996 that guarantees annual budget of \$11 million for CIP projects. Local officials say they are anticipating the multiplier economic impact of the CIP funds to reach \$300 million.

March 9, 2000

CUC wavers over 80-MW power plan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation appears to have backed down to pressure as officials yesterday said they will support a pending measure reinstating the mothballed 80-megawatt power plant on Saipan if there is an assurance that such a project will not increase electricity rates on the island. CUC Board Chairperson Rosario M. Elameto said they are not pushing for a veto of Senate Bill 12-19, but that they want clarification on its intent before the governor signs it into law. "No, we didn't ask for a veto. We want clarification of the bill. If the intent of the bill is good, then we want the governor to sign it. We want the contract in a way that we don't need to increase the rates," she told reporters in an interview.

Arriola's parents: 'Joey will not do such a thing'

When Antonio Arriola, 59, his wife Mary, 47, and three children were brought to the Superior Court to face charges of conspiracy for obstruction of justice on March 7, 2000, it was probably the longest moment in their lives. On that day, around 2:30 p.m., some 10 police and detectives on board five patrol cars surrounded the Arriola apartment in Garapan. Immediately, the police handcuffed Joey, his sisters Antoinette and Darcy and brought them to the Department of Public Safety. But Mr. and Mrs. Arriola, who were included in the arrest warrant, were not home that day, but they rushed to DPS to surrender themselves. "We are not criminals, but we were treated like ones," said Mrs. Arriola.

March 9, 2001

Deport sex workers, pimps

As if the three-year limit stay is not yet enough, the CNMI government apparently found another good reason to send nonresidents back home: Deportation of sex workers. However, lawmakers were quick to point out that including deportation in the list of possible penalties that may be meted out against sex workers would block increase of prostitution cases in the CNMI. The Department of Public Safety made the recommendation to the CNMI Legislature as it called for an immediate review of the existing law against prostitution. Police wants the law to have more teeth in terms of prosecution.

Kids plot DOLI burglary

Who would have thought that a well-orchestrated criminal operation involving one of the Commonwealth's key government agencies could be masterminded by teenagers under 15 years old? Police yesterday apprehended two main suspects to the burglary of the Department of Labor and Immigration in San Antonio Tuesday, who happen to be a pair of 13- and 14-year-olds. The Department of Public Safety reported the attempt to rob the agency apparently began as early as Monday but suspects only succeeded in gaining entry into the second floor office Tuesday night.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE
OVERSTAYERS REPORT

Monday, March 2, 2009, first publication
Monday, March 9, 2009, second publication

Notice is hereby given that, according to the records maintained by the Commonwealth as of February 23, 2009, the following persons have overstayed the permission granted upon their entry to the Commonwealth for employment purposes. Persons in an overstayer status are required to depart the Commonwealth immediately. Persons who depart the Commonwealth voluntarily are eligible to return; those who are deported are not eligible to return.

Permissions granted upon entry may have been extended or the entry status may be changed under a number of different provisions of the Commonwealth law, but all extensions and changes must be documented and the applicable fees paid. If the necessary applications and supporting document have not been correctly completed, filed, or recorded, a name may appear in overstayer status although an extension may have been granted upon completion or recording of the necessary documentation.

If your name is on the list set out below and you have or should have a current status allowing you to be in the Commonwealth, please report to Evelyn Sablan, Executive Secretary to the Director of Labor, second floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, Saipan, no later than March 16, 2009, to correct the records.

Name	LIDS No.
****, ABUL	127939
****, BAKUL	131487
ABANTE, JOSEFINO M	150216
ABAYGAR, ZENAIDA N	112336
ABDUR, ROB	151151
ABUEL, LOURDES QUINTERO	125740
ACERO, JESUS R	132145
ADVERSALO, JAMES PASION	296903
ALAM, SHAHA	137274
ALFONSO, ROSAURO P	117463
ALITA, MERLITA P	158372
ALMOJUELA, CESAR G	101655
ALONSABE, BEN R	281321
ALTOVEROS, LEA B	124104
AMOR, SEGUNDINO J	127015
ANDRADE, AMELITO M	100238
ARAZA, GREGORIO LATOJA	137311
ARCALES, DANIEL A	120772
ARGUELLES, MA NENITA E	153640
ARRIETA, VIRGILIO T	105828
ASAMI, KINUYO	302925
AURE, REYNALDO RODA	200564
BACAY JR, RENATO CORTEZ	294301
BACHICHA, RUBEN SANTOS	205606
BALDAVA, LYDIA SAN PEDRO	154424
BALINO, TESSIE LEONES	183977
BALORAN, RESTITUTO D	103496
BANAGA, LEONILA B	150644
BANAGA, LEONILA C	118585
BAO, JIEJUAN	284605
BATOBATAN, ERVIN A	161017
BORJA, PAMELA LUGATIMAN	164452
BRIZUELA, LORENZO B	108467
BUCU, MA VICTORIA DELA CRUZ	147371
CACATIAN, LOUIE MORATA	291299
CACDAC, ROSALIA H	101020
CAGAS, MARTINA BANAGUA	173144
CAINTOY, REGINA SANTOS	171545
CAO, QIN FEN	156571
CAO, YINGZI	144977
CAPACIO, NEIL SULIT	297476
CARONILLA, VICTOR FITERO	173921
CASALME, NENETH C	189443
CASTRO, MICHAEL TIOMICO	302388
CERVANTES, MEYTHER	187698
CERVANTES, RASHYL GONZALES	312507
CERVANTES, VIC M	155256
CHE, LONG FAN	310603
CHEN, GE	287572
CHEN, LISHAN	312635
CHEN, MEIER	293226
CHEN, QINGHONG	286645
CHEN, XIUYUN	312634
CHEN, YAER	130223
CHEN, YAJIA	159329
CHOI, SEONG IN	154335
CHUMJAI, CHONNIKAN	119736
CISNERO, LORNA M	156843
CORNEJO, NENITA D	125899
CORTEY, MICCOLE ASHLEY Z	311989
CORTEZ, ARTURO L	158785
COSTALES, SAMMY FONTANILLA	105717
CRISTOBAL, NESTOR R	143170
CUBI, VICTOR JR O	164409
CUI, LINHUA	128064
CUI, MEILAN	192172
CUSTODIO, JULIETA C	133586
DAGAAS, MARIETTA LAUZON	135589
DAI, JINGSHAN	303108
DAI, LIXIU	289302
DANTES, TEODORA E	139921
DE GUZMAN, ROMULO C	142863
DE QUINTOS, ARCELI B	148140
DEL ROSARIO, VON RYAN EUGENIO	310540
DELA CRUZ, EXEQUIEL JR LEONARDO	310231
DELA CRUZ, LEODEGARIO JR L	118268

Name	LIDS No.
DELIZO, ERNESTO	129436
DELOS SANTOS, ROWENA GASPER	312368
DELVO, MAURECIO P	302488
DIMALANTA, ROWENA ASUNCION	116206
DOLLETE, MILA D L C	132824
DOLOTINA, AMANDO SOPOT	202994
DONG, LI	297520
DUNGO, LORNA CANONO	303097
DURAN, MELINDA MATIC	164749
DYKSTRA, JOLENE MYRA	287542
EGASANI, CORNELIO AVELINO	205558
ESMERO, AMADEO SAGUINSIN	108732
ESPINA, PRECILLA ATIENZA	301163
ESPLANA, GENELITO LAUDIT	174615
ESQUIVEL, DELFIN JR HERNANDEZ	311301
ESTABILLO, JOYCIE APOSTOL	154337
FABILLAR, RODOLFO LOVITE	171491
FAN, HONGQIN	197849
FANG, LIPING	287850
FENG, YUANYUAN	312636
FERIA, DICKY B	119640
FERIA, LORITO DOMINICO	203418
FERRER, ERNESTO C	186736
FLORES, JOSELITO	112974
FUNTANAR, ARCELI LESACA	296772
GABATINO, MARY ANN G	123942
GALANG, ELIZABETH NAPO	302389
GAMAB, BERNADETTE D	123600
GAMBON, MELCHOR C	150136
GANADEN, JULIET T	108443
GAO, YONGHUA	130086
GAOIRAN, JOSEFINA MADRIAGA	205114
GARCIA, BERNARDO B.	107762
GENG, CUILAN	288905
GERMAN, BIBIANA E	152245
GETUABAN, FLORENCIO ABABA	312531
GONG, CHUNHUI	288326
GUAN, SHENGYONG	280450
GUANGLIN, CHEN	174195
GUARDIAN, NOLITO DIMURA	301830
GUO, JING	302344
GUO, LINGFANG	188355
HAYAG, VEBEN JOSE S	108062
HE, JUN	150667
HIDALGO, ARIEL M	138098
HOLGADO, ARIEL I	146722
HONG, YU QING	127871
HOSSAIN, MOHAMMAD AMZAD	135868
HOSSAIN, MOKTHAR	173811
HOSSAIN, MOTAHAR	131012
HU, WU MEI	280301
HUANG, LIANSHENG	180743
INDIONGCO, OFELIA SANTOS	132598
IROG, LUCINA DE LEON	128128
JIANG, ZHELONG	288072
JIN, CHANGFAN	202993
JIN, HONGMEI	282092
JIN, JING	297447
JIN, RENGUO	104610
JIN, SHENGZHE	293349
JIN, TAI JI	191584
JIN, YUHUA	175218
JING, YAN LI	205607
K C, BIMALA KUMARI	161118
KANG, CHENG GEN	154399
KHONKARN, BOONKONG	128340
LADABAN, EUGENIA FLORES	123304
LAGUATAN, REYNALDO P	127962
LAN, YUAN MEI	192256
LAVARRO, CIELITO A	120603
LI, DEXIANG	280758
LI, GUANGFAN	281565
LI, HUALAN	180035
LI, MINGHUA	296620
LI, MINGXIU	295481
LI, YAN	297357

Name	LIDS No.
LIM, JIN TAIK	283233
LIM, ROSARIO P	111268
LIN, BINGQI	294452
LIN, BIYUN	289292
LIN, GUOBIAO	289691
LIN, JINKUN	151152
LIN, SONGFENG	141448
LIN, XIAOLIN	204141
LING, ZHIHUA	297392
LISING, REYNALDO TONGOL	288313
LIU, HUIPING	170363
LIU, JIANYING	300604
LIU, KUNPENG	296096
LIU, MEI CHUN	280304
LOOC, SHIELA ALVARICO	297860
LOPEZ, BERNARDINO DELA CRUZ	288373
LU, JIANGUO	303235
LUIS, VIVIAN I	137231
LUNTAYAO, JOENA DEMAPILES	200218
MABANSAG, PHILIP CEZAR S	138514
MACASERO, FRANCISCO EWARAT	293161
MACASERO, MARIA NORA I	204812
MADARANG, ELIZABETH L	147274
MAGDAYAO, GODOFREDO P.	301867
MALINAY, HILARION MASIPAG	290842
MASANGCAY, ABEL BAGANG	204853
MASANGCAY, ROWENA DELACRUZ	134772
MEDIANISTA, SONET D	159192
MEJOS, DOMINADOR M	102969
MERANTE, LOLITA DELIVIOS	123950
MINA, ROMEO AGOHO	297622
NAN, CHANGGEN	286432
NAVARRO, JEHAZEL DELOS SANTOS	205608
NERIZON, MARY JEAN MEJIA	293673
NOZAKI, KOJI	134746
OBRA, LOLITA B	147762
OTARA, NELSON S	142813
PABALE, RODOLFO B.	111564
PAMINTUAN, REMIGIO M	141731
PASCUA, DANILO A	161698
PATILLAS, ROMEL RIVERAL	297859
PATIO, DONALD RAMOS	204879
PATRON, WILLY M	153653
PEADA, JOYNAL	137340
PIAO, JIZHU	158263
PO, EDWIN LIM	163616
POMARIJOS, ALBERT V	158133
PRADO, MACARIO JR BAJIT	124581
QIAN, TAIGUO	287046
QIN, GUIYING	154532
QUINDOZA, ROMANO GALICIA	301449
RAHMAN, MOHAMMED AZIBUR	301849
RAHMAN, MOHAMMED HABIBUR	174206
RATTANAKUN, NARA	104024
REMILLOZA, RONALD VILLANUEVA	302903
REYES, ARNOLD O	142379
RIZO, LERMA M	106198
RODRIGUEZ, RIZA PARAISO	153143
RUBINO, EMMA ORTIZ	312504
SALENGA, DANILO M	128174
SALIBIO, CLAUDIO JR V	117550
SALIVIO, RONNIE D	138010
SAN JUAN, YOLANDA ASALDO	198196
SANCHEZ, ARLENE JACOBE	312698
SANO, DANILO M	127888
SANQOI, MARVIN BERNARDO	297817
SANTOS, NORMAN CHIUCO	297976
SHAO, CHUNPING	301336
SHARIF, MOHAMMAD	139010
SHEN, YING	288206
SIBULO, CARMEN	105927
SIKDER, MOHAMAD BADAL	175067
SILVESTRE, IMELDA IRAL	295686
SIMBULAN, LOLITA CALIGUIA	285326
SINGH, HIKMAT BAHADUR	158202
SOLOMON, ALMA B	104869

Name	LIDS No.
SONG, JUN	165536
SONG, XIAOYAN	125137
SU, SHIXIA	289301
SUMAT, RONALDO V	105064
SUN, HONGCHUN	190502
SUN, YAN	284186
SUN, ZHONGLIANG	302016
TAN, YUCHENG	301677
TOLBO, REYNALDO K	122234
TONG, YISHAN	296040
TORREFIEL, CARLOS T	132311
TRINIDAD, ROLANDO T	126479
TU, ZUN LI	280306
UNISA, MARISSAA	287015
VALDEZCO, GILBERT DEPAZ	302801
VELARDE, MELBA OSAL	299791
VELARDE, THELMA MERLY R	101333
VERGARA, VICENTE A	129704
VILLANUEVA, ARMANDO E	107275
VILLANUEVA, SHIRLEY L	137331
VINLUAN, ROBELYN G	149985
VIOLA, JULIE ANN PERDIGON	282768
WAN, LIPING	302309
WANG, CHUNHUA	280215
WANG, DINGDING	297696
WANG, HAIFENG	199480
WANG, RENYI	174269
WANG, YIN	282570
WANG, YU QIN	285097
WAYAN, GORDON A	129712
WERCHAN, WALTHER ANDREAS	312043
WU, CUIHONG	288926
WU, MEIXIAN	188670
WU, SHU FEN	180545
WU, XIAOWEN	194847
XIE, LINGFANG	198087
XU, FEIFEI	296968
XU, HONGHUA	285775
XU, HU	288261
XU, MINGGEN	297915
XU, ZHIGUANG	200601
XUE, WEINA	296307
YANG, HUAN	173056
YANG, JINJI	200392
YANG, LIHUA	191860
YANG, LIULAN	188691
YANG, TIARONG	287778
YANG, WEN QING	292505
YANG, XIUHUI	195403
YANG, YANXIA	128304
YAO, JU WEN	141706
YOO-ON, SOPHIDA	102210
YU, JINLIAN	284184
YU, MEIYING	174700
ZHANG, AIMING	296990
ZHANG, FENGLIN	302303
ZHANG, JIANJUN	194145
ZHANG, JINHONG	289310
ZHANG, SHIMIN	171512
ZHANG, WEI	195842
ZHANG, YA PENG	291467
ZHAO, ZHENGLONG	302288
ZHENG, BIAO	104607
ZHENG, HE MING	118315
ZHENG, JIANHONG	151047
ZHENG, ZHIZHONG	132286
ZHOU, JIAN	164237
ZHOU, JIANFENG	301678
ZHOU, LAN	164545
ZHOU, QINGLAN	297790
ZHOU, XUECHAO	299395
ZHU, LIQIN	141674
ZOU, LILI	287849

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Justice for Darfur

Sudanese President Omar Hassan Ahmed Bashir has responded to the International Criminal Court's warrant for his arrest on charges of war crimes by retaliating against the civilians of Darfur. He ordered the expulsion of 13 international agencies that provide food, water and medical care to more than 4 million Darfuris, offering yet another reason to bring him to justice.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the expulsions would cause "irrevocable damage to humanitarian operations," provoking a new tragedy for people who already have suffered mass murder, rape and torture. At least 300,000 people have died in Darfur in the fighting between ethnic African rebels and Arab militiamen working for the Khartoum government, and 2.7 million have been driven out of their homes. Arguing that peace is more urgent than justice, some African and Arab leaders have criticized the ICC's decision to issue the warrant now, saying it will destabilize the region and jeopardize an already shaky deal to end the civil war between northern and southern Sudan. This is a false argument; impunity only begets more violence. Their criticism should be directed at Bashir, not at the court.

The U.N. Security Council asked the court to investigate crimes in Darfur in the first place, and has the power to defer the warrant. China, which is a member of the council and buys two-thirds of Sudan's oil exports, supports that idea. But it would be a mistake. Legal proceedings in the court should not be held up for political purposes. The international community should stand behind the court's action and press the government of Sudan to stop its collective punishment of Darfuris and fulfill its obligations under the 2005 peace agreement. The Sudanese government is obliged under international law to protect its citizens. World leaders should be pressing Bashir to allow relief in and to prevent further atrocities.

It is unlikely that Bashir will be handed over to international authorities any time soon. The United Nations has no police force to implement the court decision, and Bashir's cohorts in Sudan aren't expected to turn him in. Nonetheless, the warrant sends an important message that even sitting heads of state cannot act with impunity. It says that, just like former presidents Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and Charles Taylor of Liberia, one day Bashir will appear in a court of law to answer for atrocities. Bashir calls the warrant further evidence of "colonialism." We call it rule of law.

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What federalization means to me

In June 2009, a major change will begin to affect our islands. The United States has decided that it is time to change our ways concerning entry and employment of nonresident workers on our islands. As we all know, it is called the federalization law.

It is not my intent to debate here whether it will be or will not be good for our islands. I only wish to explain how it will affect my present companies and my employees and how I am planning for it. Perhaps this discussion may also help other businesses see that this federalization law is not a doomsday act. If used properly we will realize many new and exciting ways of doing business on our islands.

Since the announcement of the federalization act, my staff has begun to slowly revamp our workforce. Up to recently, the workforce was composed of the usual 80 percent nonresident workers and the rest 20 percent of resident workers. However, since last October, we have begun to replace nonresident workers with local employees. Today we have about 50 percent local workers and adding more everyday as we find them.

We have found that this new workforce is quite good, capable and willing to work. We have had one or two bad lemons, but most of our new employees are very good and loyal. They show up daily and work hard.

I am mentioning this because unlike the reputation often tagged on local workers that they are no good or lazy, I disagree. There are many good hardworking local employees eager to learn and improve themselves. However, over the years because of our policies we have done them a disservice by neglecting them.

As soon as they are employed, we spend time with them to make sure that the nonresident and the resident workers cooperate and show no discrimination to one another. One of the nice side affects is that our customers also enjoy seeing the local workers, whether delivering water, working on the boats, or delivering shrimp.

This same attitude of hiring more local workers is being felt by the students of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute as well. NMTI is finding it easier and easier to place its students in various companies that before were closed to hiring local workers. And the new workers are becoming a value source for employers because they bring with them an urgency to learn a skill.

Over the past two months we have placed many students in construction companies to replace nonresident workers. The owners seem pleased with the new students. There definitely is a change in attitude. This is why I am constantly mentioning that we must train our local workforce. There are jobs out there, and when a local prospective employee walks in to apply for it, he will be hired.

Some of us are worried that they will not work for the minimum wage. Let's look at this. An unskilled employee, whether local or nonresident, is worth only the minimum wage. But as his skills are honed, he should receive a higher salary.

When a man is paid \$4.05 an hour, he must realize that it is only an entry level pay. As he demonstrates his skills and determination, his pay will be raised. If he does not improve his job skills, the pay

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

will stay the same. Why? Usually a worker receiving a minimum wage, whether resident or nonresident, will work at a specific pace. However should the same man receive a higher wage, he will work faster and more efficiently. Also if a person is qualified, why should he earn only the minimum wage? Pay a person what he is worth.

Actually paying a higher wage is more cost effective. For example, two men each receiving \$4.05 an hour adds up to \$8.10 an hour. However if the job can be done by one man, instead of two, at say \$6 an hour, the saving is \$2.10 per hour. Also by training the employee to use more sophisticated tools or work methods, fewer employees should be needed. One motivated employee is worth more than three or four unmotivated ones.

An employer should also consider these additional costs. Round-trip tickets to and from point of origin. Hiring uninterviewed employees and then being stuck with whoever is hired. Labor fee of \$350. Guaranteed medical expenses. Guaranteed housing. Weeks, often months, of waiting. Difficulty of dismissing. And other expenses and headaches. If an employer calculates carefully all these additional costs, he may wonder where the cheap labor force is.

The above statement has been tested in my companies. For example, our deliverymen receive better than minimum wage and as a result their production is higher than when we had more deliverymen.

It is unfortunate that the federalization act will also affect the residency status of many people in the CNMI. That is one portion that I do not like. Many of them have the right to stay here. But that is a different issue from working.

In my previous articles we have discussed that with planning and training, we can have over 12,000 to 14,000 local workforce. I am not against nonresident workers. They have been productive and helped build our community. However, I am sad when so many of our local people have been neglected and not motivated to become skilled.

An example comes to mind. How many local trained bookkeepers and accountants do we have ready to move into all the companies soon to need one? Though we have schools and a college to train them, yet how many are actually working in the private sector? Who will replace the nonresident bookkeepers when they have to leave?

Also it is time that our people become entrepreneurs on our islands wherever and whenever possible. I would love to go into a grocery store or take my car to be repaired or see women get hair

See WHAT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Mindful March madness

It is that month of NCAA hoops hoopla, when the campus frenzy bursts into the inhibition-shedding Spring break, with the Final Four extravaganza gaining media exposure and partisan intensity similar to that accorded the World Series, the Super Bowl, the Olympics combined.

There is another “madness” calling our attention, and the months of March and May are when official attention is given. This other madness is the mental health kind with focus on maternal mental health and mental retardation awareness, the latter being a major disability component of the Developmental Disabilities awareness focus of the month.

Former CNMI Attorney General Robert T. Torres hit front page last month when he reminded the government that after almost a decade, the Commonwealth has yet to treat its mentally-ill in compliance with court judgments, e.g., the Dwayne M. Sibetang and Eria Elliot cases in particular, and the Patients’ Rights Act in general.

Previously, we also had Comedy Central in the news with John Joyner awkwardly playing warden to homeless Peter, save that this did not prove funny at all. Reference to Peter’s shortage of mental acuity was used to explain his “criminal” behavior!

Of course, there is the convenient knee-jerk explanation of the Virginia Tech killings more than a year ago, which prompted yet another study of the causal link between mental illness and violence, the result of which is what had already been known: there is none. Violence begets violence, and though violent acts has often been associated with persons diagnosed with mental illness, the cause-and-effect relationship is, at best, coincidental to the unfavorable general context of mental illness in contemporary society.

The images created by such movies as *Psycho*, *Friday the 13th*, and *Chainsaw Massacre* perpetuate the mythology of a direct correlation between mental illness and violence. Jack Nicholson and Louise Fletcher’s entertaining depiction of the tragi-comic conflict

between patient and nurse in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* is reminiscent of reports a dear nurse use to bring home after her duty in the Pediatric ward at CHC, the nurses’ station being beside the entry door to the psychiatric ward.

More recently, Academy Award winning movie, *A Beautiful Mind*, about the Nobel laureate John Forbes Nash, reflected current state of knowledge that conceives of a quadrilateral separation of the body, soul, mind and spirit, but in reality, are inseparable as any medical practitioner would concede. Residue of the Manichaeic dichotomy that divided life between good and evil, in the religions of Judaism-Christianity-Islam of the Fertile Crescent, continues to influence the view that there is “normative” behavior, which is good, and “aberrant” behavior, which is bad. We educate the young to adapt to normative behavior, and we condemn and confine them if they won’t.

The sanity of insanity, however, has gotten a hearing in such novel-turned-movie as *Catch-22* where the character Yossarian aims to be classified as insane in order to be discharged from military duty. Paradoxically, to ask to be assessed as insane means one is rational enough to make the request, so a circuitous logic negates the very assertion one is trying to make. Max Klinger in the popular TV-series *Mash* similarly appeals for psychiatric discharge from the army, the point being, that in an insane war, the sane thing to do is to get out of it!

“Gone mental” is, of course, used in reference to well-publicized Post Office shootings. Filipinos clarify the locale of their domicile if living in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, i.e., outside rather than inside, the latter referring to the sprawled mental institution that is a residue of the days when mental patients were still subjected to electroshock therapy.

The list of prominent Western personalities who are considered to have been mentally ill includes: Hans Christian Andersen,

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.



Ludwig van Beethoven, Winston Churchill, Kurt Cobain, Charles Darwin, Emily Dickenson, Thomas Edison, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Betty Ford, Paul Gauguin, King George III, Johann Goethe, Ernest Hemingway, Victor Hugo, Ignatius of Loyola, Thomas Jefferson, John Keats, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther, Michelangelo, Florence Nightingale, King Saul, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Sir Isaac Newton. Vincent Van Gogh’s creativity is demonstrative of the link often observed between fertile imagination and genius.

Fifty-four conditions of various categories are listed as adjustment <<http://www.mentalhealth.com/dis/p20-aj01.html>>, anxiety, childhood, eating, mood, cognitive (delirium, dementia, amnesic), personality, schizophrenia and other psychotic, and substance-related disorders of mental illness. To classify the behavior of each as aberrant needing censure, ignoring the nature of the human journey, is a throwback to the age when we dealt with foul spirits by incantation before subjecting them to the blaze of the stakes, or, not too long ago, wiring them for electrical shocks.

Psychiatrist R. D. Laing revolutionized the approach to psychosis when he made it participatory to the degree that the patient’s account of his/her own condition is an important ingredient in the journey toward mental health. Not only is the stigma of mental illness to be

See **MINDFUL** on Page 13

Letter to the Editor

In search of backbones

The CNMI House of Representatives recently failed to override the governor’s veto of the budget, after initially passing the budget with 18 yes votes and only 1 no vote. The failure of the Legislature to fulfill the most basic of its duties—to provide a budget for the operation of the government—is the fault of the six House members who failed to vote for the override. Their failure is inexcusable.

Those who failed to support the override: Republicans Joseph James Norita Camacho and Stanley T. Torres; Democrat Justo S. Quitugua; Covenant Edwin P. Aldan, Oscar M. Babauta, and Raymond D. Palacios; and Independent Victor B. Hocog. David M. Apatang was absent.

Here’s what I want to say to each of these elected officials.

Rep. Joseph Camacho: Although you gave no excuse on the record in the House, you explained your reasons on your website and in a letter in the newspapers. Basically, you say your change of mind on the budget relates to separation of powers, because the budget contains a provision that requires legislative approval of any and all new Executive Branch hires. You say you originally voted for the budget because this provision can be viewed as merely ministerial (an administrative function), but now that the governor says it violates the Constitution, you “must” respect the governor’s interpretation.

Nonsense. You know, as a lawyer yourself, that it is the court’s role, not the governor’s, to determine constitutionality of laws. Legislators have no constitutional duty to kowtow to a governor’s interpretation of a law they passed.

This is a lame excuse.

Also, the budget as passed—HB 16-213—contains at Sec. 801 a “severability” clause, basically saying that if any provision is unconstitutional, that provision shall be severed from the law and the rest remain in effect.

You should have voted to override the veto. Then we would have a budget. If the hiring provision is challenged and the court rules it

unconstitutional, we still have a budget and the constitution is upheld by severing the provision from the rest of the law.

Nor do I believe the constitutionality of the hiring clause is the real reason you voted against overriding the budget veto. Immediately after the vote on the budget veto, you supported passage of H.B. 16-212, which also contains a provision requiring legislative approval of Executive and Judicial branch new hires.

Stop trying to confuse the electorate with make-believe justifications. This is nothing but a lame excuse and a poor one at that. Be honest with us.

Rep. Stanley Torres: After the vote, you told the media, “I was not ready to vote yet because I just got in when they had a roll call. I would have voted yes to the override.” Why were you late? You needed to be ready and present from the start. You’ve been a member of the House for many, many years and know how things operate. This is nothing but a lame excuse.

Rep. Justo Quitugua: What does it mean to be a member of the Democrat party? What possible explanation could you reasonably give for voting against the veto override? You gave none because there is none.

Rep. Edwin P. Aldan and Rep. Raymond Palacios: I understand that you voted, this time, with your party. Party politics are important to help bring about fruitful debate. But Representative Palacios, you originally supported this budget. Representative Aldan, you didn’t even vote on it the first time. It’s time to put party politics aside and enact a budget. Stop the delay tactics. Do what is right for the CNMI, not what your Covenant party tells you to do.

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta: You voted against the budget when it first passed because, you said, you support Governor Fitial’s call for austerity Fridays. Presumably you object to the override for the same reason. You said, when questioned about your reason for voting against the override, that you recommended that the House of Representatives “move on” to more pressing concerns.

There are no more pressing concerns. We need a budget immediately. We need to stop discretionary spending, stop uncontrolled deficit

spending, stop irresponsible-no account-needed spending. We need the Legislature deciding what priorities are for our limited funds.

Your support of austerity Fridays is a sham to hide the fact that you really support our current governor having unlimited power. A budget, even without austerity Fridays, puts in more fiscal controls and restraints than the phantom austerity Fridays you pretend to hold out for.

Rep. Victor B. Hocog: You voted against the budget veto override because the governor telephoned you threatening to furlough contractual workers, especially on Rota and Tinian.

Where is your backbone? Stand up to the governor and vote for what is right. The CNMI needs a budget. You are concerned about contractual employees on Rota. Why does the CNMI have so many government employees who are not civil service? Why do we have so many ordinary citizens in political appointments and contractual jobs that are subject to political pressure tactics? Is this the only way you can elected, but having political patronage that we pay for? We cannot be hostages to our leaders. And you, as a “leader” should not be bowing to political pressure and caving in to threats of job losses when you actually supported this budget to begin with.

Rep. David Apatang: Why did you miss this session? I understand that you may be sick. I hope you get well soon. Your constituents need you.

And now, we still need a budget. We need a budget to make sure that our Legislature is setting the priorities for what our government does. We need a budget to make sure that there are fiscal restraints and responsible financial controls in place. We need a budget by the Legislature as part of the *constitutional* system of checks and balances on executive power. This is the real constitutional issue.

The failure of these elected officials to make sure we have a budget puts our CNMI at risk of very real political chaos. Their failure is inexcusable.

Jane Mack

San Vicente, Saipan

WHAT

From Page 10

treatments in shops owned and operated by local business persons. I would love to see local persons actually do the hands-on work by themselves. I would love to be greeted in the vernacular.

As stated at the beginning, federalization will force us to examine our islands’ workforce and motivate them to enter the workforce as trained and skilled workers. Though there will be side problems that will disrupt our current comfortable reliance on nonresident work-

ers, I feel that in the long run the benefits will overwhelm the initial confusion. Need I remind us that unless a nation builds up its own skilled labor force it will never become prosperous? Please read the sad history of the island nation of Nauru if you need reminding of this fact. On the other hand, read the success story of Singapore that pulled itself from utter poverty to become one of the world’s most successful nations today.

Yes, major changes do wrench the hearts and minds of all of us. Change also brings confusion and uncertainty to many of us. However the only constant thing we really have in life is change—endless change. The more we resist change or do not accept it, the more

problems we create.






At first federalization will cause a lot of confusion and problems to us, but to rankle against it will cause only more confusion. Most of all, it will prevent preparation and adaptation so that when it finally is implemented, we may end up being unprepared.

In closing, let’s adapt to the new change and prepare for it. Cheap nonresident labor is a memory. This is a new age and requires new techniques and fresh devoted local employees who work not only to earn a decent wage but also to have personal pride in building and operating their own country. Maybe federalization may be not too bad if it wakes up us and drags us into the 21st century. Think about it!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

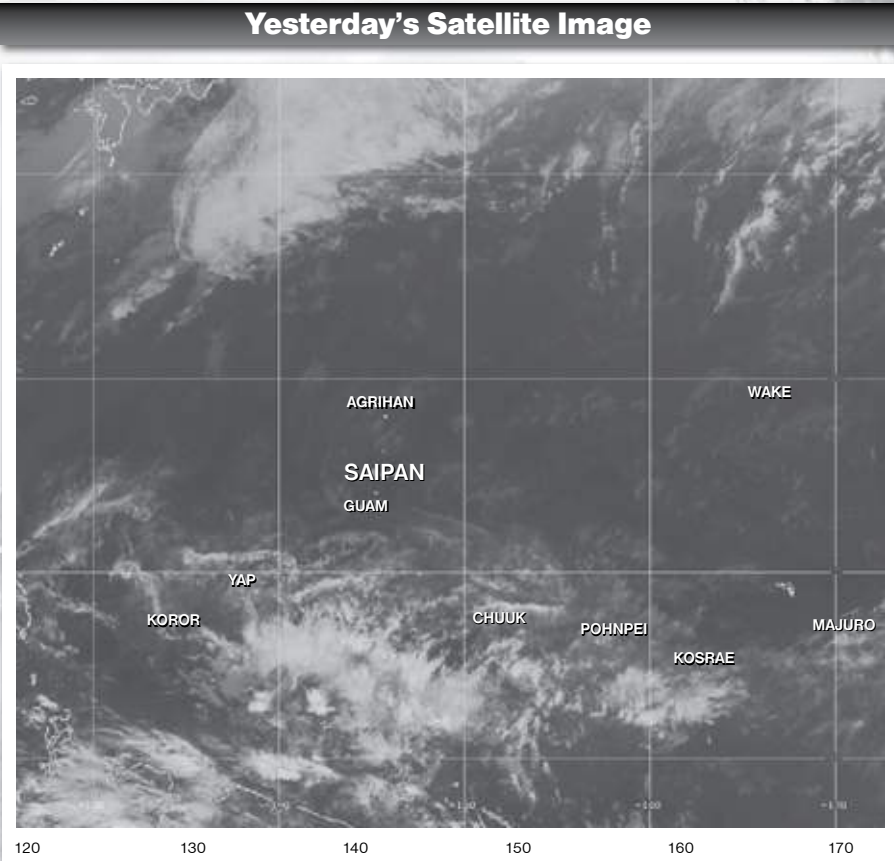
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼75
Palau	Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲84 ▼75

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲65 ▼55
Beijing	Sunny	▲35 ▼32
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲73 ▼67
Honolulu	Showers	▲74 ▼66
London	Showers	▲45 ▼40
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲64 ▼50
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲92 ▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲75 ▼61
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲82 ▼68
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲58 ▼44
Osaka	Cloudy	▲57 ▼41
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲46 ▼34
Pusan	Cloudy	▲63 ▼39
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲59 ▼42
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲48 ▼33
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲59 ▼44
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲55 ▼32
Tokyo	Dreary	▲53 ▼41
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲70 ▼44

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
12:11 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
7:05 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
12:44 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
5:59 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough runs from EQ145E to 7N138E. Low-level winds converging east of the trough are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 2N and 5N from 141E to 155E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:29 AM	6:26 PM	Today	4:42 PM	4:46 AM
Tuesday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM	Tuesday	5:39 PM	5:30 AM
Wednesday	6:28 AM	6:27 PM	Wednesday	6:35 PM	6:11 AM
Thursday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM	Thursday	7:29 PM	6:51 AM
Friday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM	Friday	8:23 PM	7:31 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009				
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS	
Saipan-Rota				
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7	
Saipan-Guam				
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily	
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily	
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota	
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6	
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily	
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	
Saipan-Narita				
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily	
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7	
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily	
Guam-Narita				
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily	
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily	
Saipan-Osaka				
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6	
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	
Guam-Osaka				
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily	
Saipan-Nagoya				
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily	
Guam-Nagoya				
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	
Saipan-Incheon				
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1	
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7	
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6	
			via Osaka	
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily	
Saipan-Busan				
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7	
Saipan-Shanghai				
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6	
Rota-Guam				
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7	
Guam-Palau				
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7	
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5	
Palau-Manila				
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5	
Guam-Manila				
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror	
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily	
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7	
Nagoya-Manila				
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily	
Incheon-Hongkong				
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily	
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily	
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7	
Narita-Manila				
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6	
Guam-Saipan				
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7	
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota	
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily	
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily	
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily	
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily	
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily	
Narita-Saipan				
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily	
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7	
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily	
Narita-Guam				
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily	
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily	
Osaka-Saipan				
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7	
NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm	Daily	
Osaka-Guam				
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily	
Nagoya-Saipan				
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily	
Nagoya-Guam				
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily	
Incheon-Saipan				
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7	
			via Osaka	
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6	
Busan-Saipan				
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7	
Shanghai-Saipan				
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5	
Guam-Rota				
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6	
Palau-Guam				
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2	
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6	
Manila-Palau				
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5	
Manila-Guam				
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror	
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily	
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7	
Manila-Nagoya				
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily	
Hongkong-Incheon				
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily	
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6	
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily	
Manila-Narita				
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily	

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE				
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	
Guam-Rota				
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Saipan				
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	
Saipan-Rota				
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	
Rota-Guam				
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	
Saipan-Tinian				
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily	
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily	
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**				
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily	
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily	
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily	
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily	
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily	
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily	
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily	
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily	
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily	
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily	
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily	
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily	
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letter to the Editor

A public relations disaster for America

Editor's Note: The following is a letter forwarded to the Saipan Tribune by Del Benson.

We are a small new business on the beautiful American islands of the Northern Marianas Islands. We have been following the federalization of immigration very closely and with much concern particularly in relation to catastrophic impact any rushed execution will have on the only remaining economy sustaining the CNMI and our own livelihood.

As a small business focused on the tourism, we remain so puzzled as to the approach decided in regards to restricting our tourists from entering Saipan until a procedure is developed to prevent those same visitors from entering our higher security locations of Guam or Hawaii. Frankly, and with all honesty, why would the USA put itself into a most embarrassing "cart before the horse" event that will certainly have further negative implications and will result in serious confusion? Would it not be wiser to leave the current restrictions for visitors preventing them now from any onward travel to USA destinations like Guam or Hawaii rather than cut off a working system, killing tourism for 12-18 months until the new procedures are developed to satisfy DHS? Is there any compassion as to the catastrophic proportion of damage to the welfare and livelihood of so many hardworking good people of the Marianas this unilateral and unnecessary decision will have? If not, then why not?

In total contrast to you who receive federally-paid salaries out of Washington 9,000 miles away with a safety net of income, us small business people who have made these new America islands our home stand to lose 12 to 18 months of income while someone in

Four major points that will kill CNMI economy

- Cutting off China and Russia, even for a couple of years
- Investors standards set at US level
- Schools certified by US for acceptance of student visa
- The guest working program transition

We need to continue with a program similar to what we are doing with the Chinese and Russian tourists. Feds could provide a group of INS agents to be part of our program at immigration. Keep them on Saipan. Cutting off the market for a year or two would kill the businesses whose main clients are Russians or Chinese and many others benefiting from the spending. Starting marketing again after a couple of years will take more dollars and will be competing with other destinations. Money spent by investors for years to build the market and business will be lost. It makes no sense. Where is the U.S. concern for the welfare of its citizens?

Have the transition from CNMI system to U.S. in a day or two. Maintain present system until a reasonable transition can take place.

The investor visas need to be within the level of present CNMI standards. They need to be able to travel between Saipan and their country at will. Many invest so the can come and spend money in the islands, not necessarily to live. If the threshold is that of U.S.

standards, investors will bypass the CNMI for the states. We can't compete with U.S. mainland. We will not get investors from the U.S. Our market and economy is Asia.

Schools accepting foreign students need to be certified from Saipan, not the states. We can't compete with the U.S. for anything. The qualifying schools need standards acceptable here and not compared with the U.S. mainland. If we compete with U.S. we lose. If students have to have embassy interviews, eligible students will be reduced.

The labor force loss carries broad consequences. The loss of workers will not only hurt businesses but have economic negative effects. Losing 18,000 workers and families in the next three years will drop our population below 40,000, which means higher prices, fewer dollars to multiply, more vacancies and business closed. There needs to be a means to qualify workers with U.S. children and long-term in the CNMI and give them resident status. It would stabilize our workforce, limit abuses and help in transition from contract workers.

Del Benson
Papago, Saipan

Washington drafts a new procedure, like the one already in place? I am sure you will understand our concern as to the inequity seen here in you continuing to receive your salary and benefits, while we who make our only living here on the islands from tourism get nothing!

Please hear our concerns and take them to heart. I cannot help but know with certainty that if placed in the same predicament we find ourselves in, you too would also feel most disturbed that a current system of prevention, developed by the USA and in place and working so well for so many years, would be completely ignored, in favor of stopping tourism until such time as another acceptable system is agreed upon. Has anyone calculated the horrible effect on "balance of payment" stopping tourism will have in such a deficit spending the USA is currently in? Is anyone concerned at all the embarrassment this decision will have on the way our Asian neighbors, the United Nations or the world views the USA treating its colonies and tourism?

If you were making a living from tourism and I just happen to decide to stop your income for 12-18 months, would you seriously be happy or prepared for such a financial disaster? On education tourism alone we stand to lose over \$60 million in only one year! If you include cutting off Russian and Chinese tourism, you easily bump this number to well over \$100 million pumped directly into our small, fragile island economy. America's No. 1 healthy export and excellent balance of payment has been and is "brain power," which our close Asian neighbors are fanatical in demand. Education is where we have an excellent reputation due to our very close proximity Asian neighbors. Education is tourism for the CNMI, based on the simple fact that we are the closest and most convenient USA education nearest Asia. No better balance of payment for America, that continues exponentially onward to America as they go on to USA colleges. And no better healthy image for America in Asia.

Can we not find common ground that is less disruptive to so

many peoples lives and is sensible and rewarding to all by leaving the current system working to today until such time as DHS has developed a better "mouse trap"? Please consider this simple alternative before the more catastrophic and fundamentally wrong approach being considered. Our livelihood and welfare depends on your respectful consideration as public servants with a heart for this young colony, and new America closest to Asia. We are hopeful you will agree this will not be a good welcoming reception to America's most hospitable frontier, the Northern Marianas Islands. We are also hopeful you will see that this poorly thought out and rushed approach will result in a total public relations disaster for America.

Playford Ramsey
via e-mail

Thanks to 'kaboom'

In reply to John DelRosario: I read your letter to the editor with surprise and dismay. First and foremost, the good brothers in the Muslim countries did not organize recently against the West. Get a copy of their Bible, the Koran, and you will find that Muslims were told in the mid-1500s to go out and kill infidels. Also, America has been in the business of helping countries all over the world set up their own democracy so their people can elect their own leaders to govern them, not forcing them into submission!

"Kaboom diplomacy" has never been used to force any country into submission! You should be very thankful for "kaboom," John, because you have some militant Muslims with a compound in the heart of Saipan! Take a little drive up the gravel road across the street from the old stockyard and as you arrive a guard will come out to stop you. What are they guarding? Weapons, bombs, or plans to take over the CNMI?

Yes, John, you should get down on your knees right now and thank God for the "kaboom" that protects you everyday!

Franklin Keiper
Mayer, Arizona

MINDFUL

From Page 11

consigned to the era of dinosaurs, the conscious facilitation of the "patients'" active role in attaining the balance and equilibrium of faculties is a critical intervention tactic in the healing process.

The Coalition on the Anti-Stigmas of Mental Illness in the CNMI: A Mental Health Awareness Group for the Northern Mariana Islands is out to promote acceptance, dignity and social inclusion associated with mental health. Jeanne Rayphand of NMPASI (235-7273/4) would be very delighted to direct any inquiries on their activities as well as the services of coalition members toward refocusing all of us on the mental "health" as much as we do on the "illness."

As a character in *Mash* commented: "Sometimes the only sane thing to do is be insane!" One given to symptoms of bipolarity, I have recently been accused of foolishness for leaving the security of a job to the uncertainty of a deep and widespread recession. That we have all taken leave of our senses, some more severely than others, is a part of the human condition. The flight of fancy, or the freedom to fight, has been known to guide our response when confronted by a dysfunctional environment. So let us pay attention to the human journey, rather than to the strict adherence to the dictates of social norms. Let us heed Attorney Torres' admonition to build the structures and systems that allows the mentally disabled not to be perceived as a threat, but also to receive the services that provides the opportunity for each to grasp one's own personal journey in and out of the world of the sane and the insane.

TRAINING on ZONING

*How Does it Affect Your
Sign, Business Location or Building,
Adult Business, Subdivision of Land or
Home Construction?*

The Zoning Office will provide training on the Saipan Zoning Law. The public is invited. There is no fee and no need to make a reservation.



March 10 at the Multipurpose Building, Susupe

- 9:00 am Signs and banners - for retailers and others
- 1:30 pm Adult businesses - for adult business owners - massage parlors, strip clubs, porno shops, etc.

March 12 at the Multipurpose Building, Susupe

- 9:00 am Overview of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 - for developers and the general public
- 1:30 pm Land subdivision - for surveyors and others who are subdividing property

Questions? Call the Zoning Office at 234-9661.


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DPS-063**

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: MARCH 26, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.



"TO CONDUCT A BASIC TRAFFIC INVESTIGATIONS COURSE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MA BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERRED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **SANTIAGO F. TUDELA**
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S


**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**


**NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**

Anthony P. Sonoda and Lorraine Anne C. Sonoda now known as Lorraine Anne T. Cabrera, (collectively "Trustor"), on or about March 11, 2002 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, formerly known as the Mariana Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on March 11, 2002 under Document No. 02-585 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 019 1 30, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 948 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN ON THE SURVEY PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF LOT 019 1 04, DLS CHECK NO. 019 1 02, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS FILED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE, AS FILE NO. 91-2320, ON MAY 13, 1991.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on January 21, 2009. Thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on **Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan**, Saipan under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **One Hundred Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighteen and 04/100 (\$100,918.04)**, the total amount due under the VA loan plus Trustee's expenses.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within 72 hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC. The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 23rd day of February, 2009.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director, NMHC

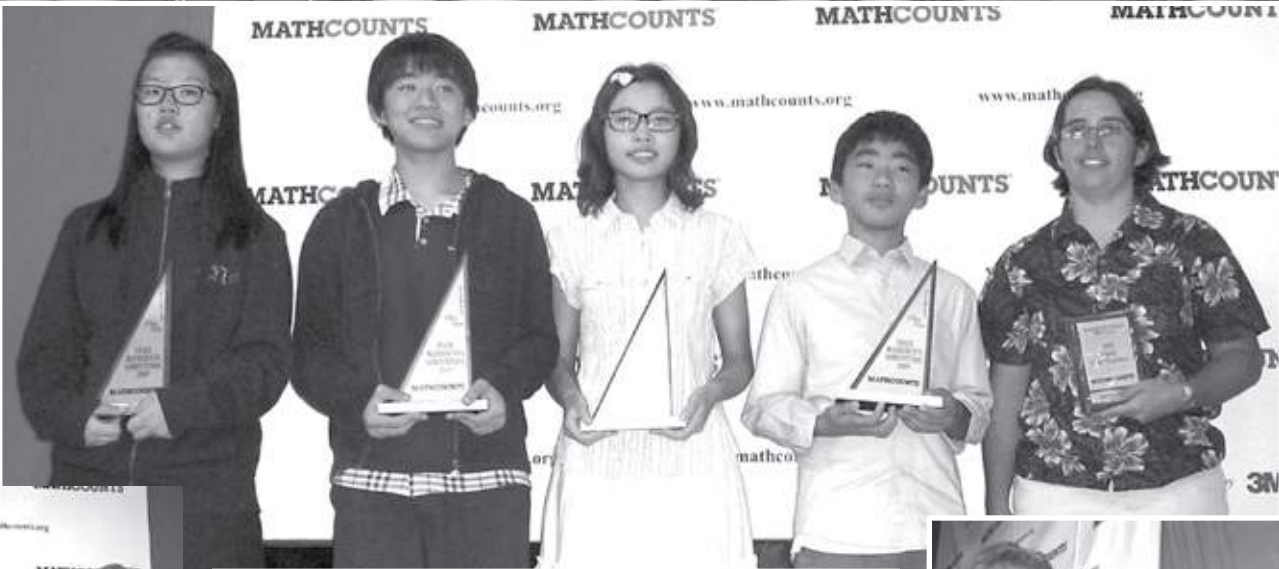
"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity, lender, and employer"

2009 State Mathcounts Competition



The top 10 winners of this year's State Mathcounts Competition pose for the media during Saturday's awarding ceremonies at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The CNMI bids goodbye to Mathcounts, which has been sponsored and organized by Efrain F. Camacho, along with EFC Engineers & Architects and volunteers, for the last 15 years.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Members of the Calvary Christian Academy team pose with their first place trophies during the Mathcounts competition on Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Members of Calvary Christian Academy's Team A and their coach hold their perpetual trophy after being named the top team in the 2009 State Mathcounts Competition on Saturday at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Also in photo is Mathcounts organizer Efrain F. Camacho, right.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



The second best team in this year's State Mathcounts is Marianas Baptist Academy's Team A.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Efrain F. Camacho stands beside the trophies for the winners of the 2009 State Mathcounts Competition which he has been organizing in the CNMI for 15 years. During Saturday's awarding ceremonies at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Camacho announced this will be the last time Mathcounts will be held in the CNMI.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Mount Carmel School Team A ranked third among teams competing in this year's State Mathcounts Competition.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Members of Hopwood Junior High School Team B during the Mathcounts competition on Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Saipan International School won third place in the team competition for this year's Mathcounts.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Business

When economy bottoms out, how will we know?

By ALAN ZIBEL, CHRISTOPHER LEONARD and TIM PARADIS
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

When will this wretched economy bottom out? The recession is already in its 15th month, making it longer than all but two downturns since World War II. For now, everything seems to be getting worse: The Dow is in free fall, jobs are vanishing every day, and one in eight American homeowners is in foreclosure or behind on payments.

But the economy always recovers. It runs in cycles, and economists are watching an array of statistics, some of them buried deep beneath the headlines, to spot the turning point. The Associated Press examined three markets—housing, jobs and stocks—and asked experts where things stand and how to know when they've hit bottom.

None of them expects it to come anytime soon.

JOBS

How bad is it?

The U.S. unemployment rate hit 8.1 percent in February, a 25-year peak. The nation has lost 4.4 million jobs since the recession began in late 2007.

The job cuts began early last year, as the housing and construction industries slowed down. The collapse of the financial industry in the fall battered white-collar workers. Soon, layoffs spread across industries and income levels.

How much worse could it get?

The darkest days for the job market are almost certainly still ahead. With spending weak and credit markets stalled, experts think the economy will probably shed a total of 2.4 million jobs this year. That would mean an unemployment rate above 9 percent.

That would easily surpass the 2001 and 1990-91 recessions but trail the 10.8 percent rate of December 1982. Those expectations could be optimistic: The government's "stress tests" to check the strength of banks' balance sheets assume a 10.3 percent rate.

The job market will probably be weak for years, even if the economy starts to turn around next year. The unemployment rate may not fall back to its pre-recession level of 5 percent until 2013, according to Moody's Economy.com.

Where's the bottom?

Economist Sophia Koropecyk, a managing director at Moody's Economy.com, is keeping an eye out for two signs—an inching up in companies hiring

temporary workers and a rise in the number of hours worked by those who have managed to keep their part-time and full-time jobs.

When business conditions improve, employers hire temporary workers first, she said, and a pickup in permanent hiring wouldn't be far behind. Koropecyk estimated that could come in mid-2010.

HOUSING

How bad is it?

The median price of a home sold in the United States fell to \$170,300 in January, down 26 percent from a year and a half earlier, according to the National Association of Realtors.

But that figure masks the complexity of the market. Price drops have been far steeper around Phoenix and Las Vegas, where new homes sprouted everywhere during the housing boom, than, say, in Detroit, where economic problems predate the recession.

And even within a single metro area, price declines vary sharply. Faraway suburbs, where many buyers stretched to qualify for mortgages, have been hit harder than city centers.

This housing crash has spread pain more widely than any before it. Home prices fell about 30 percent during the Great Depression, according to calculations by Yale University economist Robert Shiller. But the nation was less concentrated in urban centers then. And a much smaller proportion of adults owned homes.

Other housing downturns in recent decades have been regional. This one is truly national. Prices in the fourth quarter of 2008 fell in nearly 90 percent of the top 150 metro areas, according to the Realtors group. And 5.4 million homeowners, about 12 percent, were in foreclosure or behind on mortgage payments at the end of last year.

How much worse could it get?

The Federal Reserve estimates home prices could fall 18 to 29 percent more by the end of 2010. Declines will probably be less severe in cities with healthier economies that don't have a glut of unsold homes, like Tulsa, Okla., and Wichita, Kan.

The nation's overall economic health is vital to the health of housing. "History tells us that as long as we're losing jobs, that's not good news for the housing market," said Nicolas Retsinas, director of Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies.

Where's the bottom?

Susan Wachter, a professor of

real estate at the University of Pennsylvania, is watching the backlog of unsold homes. At January's sales pace, it would take about 9 1/2 months to rid the market of all those properties. A more normal pace would be six months.

Once foreclosures level off and the backlog is cleared, Wachter says, the housing market can begin to recover. But even with the Obama administration directing \$75 billion in bailout money to stave off foreclosures, most economists don't expect home prices to bottom out before the first quarter of 2010. And don't expect an explosive rebound: Price increases will probably be modest when they come.

STOCKS

How bad is it?

The Dow Jones industrial average and the Standard & Poor's 500 index have lost more than half their value since the stock market peaked in October 2007. It's the worst bear market since the aftermath of the crash of 1929, when the Dow plunged 89 percent and the S&P 500 index tumbled 86 percent.

How much worse could it get?

Analysts generally think Wall Street has endured the worst of the bear market. But many of those same analysts never thought the market would fall this far.

Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Harris Private Bank in Chicago, said the Dow could fall to 6,000 if the economy slows much further and unemployment rises well past the current 8.1 percent. He pegs the likelihood of that at about 30 percent. Others are more pessimistic. Bill Strazullo, chief market strategist for Bell Curve Trading, contends the Dow might fall to 5,000 and the S&P to 500.

When will the bottom come?

In downturns over the past 60 years, the S&P 500 has hit bottom an average of four months before a recession ended and about nine months before unemployment hit its peak.

Investors will be looking for turnarounds in housing, lending and employment, plus signs that consumer spending has picked up. Then market players would be more likely to move their money from safe havens, such as gold, back into stocks.

Other investors may look to obscure indicators such as the Baltic Dry Index, which tracks the cost of shipping iron ore, grain and other materials. Rising rates can indicate demand for raw materials is increasing, which suggests a strengthening economy.

Nation

Obama says time of crisis can be 'great opportunity'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Trying to buck up a dispirited nation, President Barack Obama on Saturday promised that prosperous days will return and cast these bleak times as nothing less than a "great opportunity." Packing some heft with his hope, he defended his fast-moving and expensive agenda.

"We will get through this," Obama said in his weekly radio and video address, taped Friday after another week of downbeat news.

The unemployment rate climbed to 8.1 percent, the highest in more than 25 years. Stock values kept tumbling, down to their lowest levels since 1997. The latest Gallup polling finds that an anemic 20 percent of people in the United States are satisfied with the state of the nation. At least that's an improvement from the 14 percent a month earlier.

Rather than pitch ahead to his next message, Obama devoted his address to recapping what his team did this past week to help get people work-



President Barack Obama, left, and first lady Michelle Obama, right, walk out of the main residence of the White House in Washington before their departure from the South Lawn on Marine One, Saturday, March 7, 2009.

ing and spending.

The goal was to demonstrate that the administration is on the case and, more broadly, that history shows American resilience will win.

"We've experienced great trials before," Obama said. "And with every test, each generation has found the capacity to not

only endure, but to prosper—to discover great opportunity in the midst of great crisis. That is what we can and must do today. And I am absolutely confident that is what we will do."

The echoes of history emerge often as Obama seeks a balance between the practical language of governing and the oratory meant to keep people inspired. Just a few days earlier, he promoted new transportation plans by saying the nation built itself up before, during the Civil War and the Great Depression.

Recent efforts include a more detailed plan to help struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure; another plan to spur lending for people and businesses; an overhaul of the way the government hands out private contracts to reduce waste; and a summit on how to overhaul health care.

He defended his budget proposal, whacked Wall Street "accounting tricks" and sent a message to Congress that it must make some tough choices.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ex-Calif. bookkeeper accused of embezzling \$10M

VISTA, Calif. (AP)—A former bookkeeper embezzled \$9.9 million, forcing her company to make layoffs as she bought 400 pairs of shoes that she kept in a room-sized closet decorated with a crystal chandelier and a plasma television, authorities claim. Annette Yeomans, 51, surrendered at the Vista jail on Friday and was booked for investigation of grand theft and embezzlement. She was being held Saturday at the San Diego County jail in lieu of \$10 million bail. Authorities allege that Yeomans embezzled the money from 2001 to 2007 while she was chief financial officer for Quality Woodworks, Inc., a cabinetry business in San Marcos. She spent at least \$240,000 on 400 pairs of shoes, \$300,000 on designer clothing and 160 purses valued at \$2,000 each, investigators allege. She also remodeled a bedroom into a closet with the chandelier and a 32-inch TV, they said.

Fax leads Los Angeles police to body in car trunk

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police following an anonymous tip sent by fax to a television station found a dead woman in the trunk of her car Saturday, and are looking for the sender and two men alleged in the message to have been involved in the crime. Officers discovered the body in a Valley Village neighborhood in the San Fernando Valley soon after being notified by KTLA-TV staff members about the faxed letter, Officer April Harding said. The sender described himself or herself only as "someone trying to help." The sender wrote that a woman was killed Feb. 28 and that her body was in a black trash bag in a car. The sender said the car would be within a 2-square-mile area of a specific address; police found it several blocks away on a shady residential street facing the 101 Freeway. The sender also named a suspect in the

killing and another man who helped the suspect clean the car, Harding said. The fax included the victim's name, but police did not immediately release it or the cause of her death pending notification of her relatives and an autopsy.

Man slips climbing power pole, saved by his pants

DULUTH, Ga. (AP)—Authorities say a Georgia man was saved by his pants when he decided to climb 35 feet up a power pole and slipped. The pants luckily caught on the metal tower, stopping his fall. Gwinnett County Fire Department officials believe the 21-year-old man from Duluth, Ga., had been drinking and ignored a companion's suggestion he had climbed far enough up the pole. Officials did not identify the man. After his pants caught, the man spent about two hours dangling before a rescue team climbed the tower and got him down.

Support for Hawaii civil union vote wavering

HONOLULU (AP)—The drive to make Hawaii the fifth state in the country to allow same-sex civil unions is on the verge of failing, despite support from most state lawmakers. Senate leaders had planned a vote before the full Senate as early as Tuesday, but deep divisions have emerged over whether Democrats should take an extraordinary legislative step to revive the measure after a tie committee vote. A tie vote in committee usually is enough to kill a measure, but the bill could advance under a rarely used provision of the Hawaii Constitution if more than one-third of senators approve. The Democratic leadership wants more than half the Senate to agree to put the bill before the full Senate. Some rank-and-file senators who support the bill, however, are unwilling to circumvent the normal legislative process. The measure already has passed the Hawaii House.

Asia

Bombs kill 15 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Three separate bombings killed 15 people in northwestern Pakistan on Saturday, while authorities investigated reports that a pilotless U.S. drone crashed elsewhere in the militant-plagued region bordering Afghanistan.

The bombings, coming days after gunmen attacked Sri Lanka's visiting cricket team, were a fresh reminder of the militant threat in Pakistan, where Western leaders worry that a growing political feud could distract the government from tackling the extremists head on.

Al-Qaida and Taliban fighters are believed to use pockets of Pakistan's northwest as bases to plan attacks on U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan. The U.S. has used drones to fire missile strikes against militants in the area, prompting protests from Pakistani officials who say the attacks fuel anti-American sentiment.

Saturday's reports of a drone crash came from Angoor Ada village in South Waziristan, a tribal region where the main Pakistani Taliban leader, Baitullah Mehsud, is based.

Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said authorities were investigating the reports. Two intelligence officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media, said their informants and agents had yet to locate wreckage.

The U.S. rarely discusses the missile operations, and the drones are believed to be CIA-operated. Col. Greg Julian, the top U.S. military spokesman in Afghanistan, declined to comment on reports of the crash.

Militants have staged numerous attacks against Pakistani security forces in recent years, but one Saturday - a car bombing - was unusual in that a body was used to lure police, officials said.

Local police chief Rahim Shah said police went to the Badaber area after an unknown caller told them of a body in a parked car. Residents and police had recently evicted militants from the area, prompting threats of retaliation.

"They found the white car. They also saw a body inside, but when they were pulling it out, the car bomb went off," Shah said. Seven police and a bystander were killed.

Meanwhile, a roadside bomb killed three civilians and wounded four troops Saturday in the town of Darra Adam Khel.

In the Khyber tribal region, a suicide bomber killed four people and wounded five at a mosque that served as a headquarters for the militant group Ansarul Islam, government official Sadiq Khan said. Ansarul Islam is the rival of another extremist group, Lashkar-e-Islam, Khan said.

RP rebels: Peace talks impossible

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine communist rebels blamed government forces Friday for the killing of a guerrilla leader's daughter, saying her death made a resumption of peace talks impossible.

The body of teacher Rebelyn Pitao, 20, was found in an irrigation canal in the southern Philippines with three stab wounds to her chest late Thursday, a day after she was abducted in Davao city, said Chief Superintendent Pedro U. Tango, the regional police chief.

The victim was the daughter of Leoncio Pitao, a prominent regional commander of the New

People's Army rebels, who have fought for a communist state for more than four decades.

The killing and other human rights violations allegedly committed by government troops under President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's administration "render peace talks with the Arroyo regime untenable," chief rebel negotiator Luis Jalandoni said in a statement from exile in the Netherlands.

Jalandoni said Pitao's brother was abducted and killed last year.

Military spokesman Maj. Randolph Cabangbang con-

demned the killing and promised to investigate possible army involvement. But he said rebels could be trying to discredit the government.

Left-wing human rights group Karapatan called for an independent investigation by a team representing human rights groups, the church, the local government and the government-funded Commission on Human Rights.

The rebels have intensified attacks on small army and police units and poorly guarded jails to seize weapons and thwart Arroyo's order to crush their insurgency by next year.

Karzai as president after May 21, and warned that an extension of Karzai's term could trigger nationwide demonstrations. But no political leaders have offered any generally accepted solution, and Karzai on Saturday argued that his term should be extended because of the delayed election. The impasse comes as Taliban militants have gained control of wide areas of the south. The U.S. is sending 17,000 more forces to Afghanistan this year to bolster the record 38,000 already in the country.

Tiger kills man who jumps into enclosure in China

BEIJING (AP)—A Siberian tiger at a wildlife park near Beijing attacked and killed a man who climbed into its enclosure thinking he found a shortcut down from the Great Wall, a park official said Sunday. The 20-year-old man, surnamed Guo, had been hiking with two other people on the wall when the group decided to jump down to save time on the descent - unknowingly landing themselves in Badaling Wildlife World's tiger enclosure. The tiger pounced on Guo, knocking him down and clamping its jaws around his throat, said a wildlife officer who gave only his surname Wang. Guo was killed instantly. A park ranger who saw the attack chased the tiger in a jeep until it released the body, while the other two men escaped by clambering up a fence and out of the enclosure, Wang said.

World

Palestinian PM steps down

RAMALLAH, West Bank

(AP)—The Western-backed Palestinian prime minister submitted his resignation Saturday, improving the odds of a possible unity government of Fatah moderates and Hamas militants, followed by new Palestinian elections.

Salam Fayyad announced that he will step down once a new government is formed, but no later than the end of March. Unity talks between the Islamic militant Hamas and the Fatah movement of moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas are to resume this week in Cairo. Abbas aides noted that if the negotiations fail, Abbas might reappoint Fayyad.

Fayyad, a respected economist, was appointed prime minister by Abbas in June 2007, following Hamas' violent takeover of Gaza. The takeover led to a deep split between Fayyad's internationally backed administration in the West Bank and the widely shunned Hamas government in Gaza whose borders were sealed by Israel and Egypt.

Still, both sides appeared optimistic Saturday about a power-sharing deal.

"Everyone needs a lifeline," Ahmed Yousef, a Hamas official, said of the rivals. Previ-



AP

Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad waves as he arrives for a meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organization after tendering his resignation to President Mahmoud Abbas' at Abbas' headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Saturday, March 7, 2009.

ous unity accords collapsed in acrimony, but both sides seem to have stronger reasons now to compromise.

After Israel's recent military offensive in Gaza, Hamas needs Fatah's international respectability to help end the crippling border blockade and obtain foreign funding to rebuild Gaza. Last week, dozens of donor countries promised \$5.2 billion for Gaza reconstruction and the Fayyad government at a pledging conference in Egypt.

Abbas, meanwhile, needs to find a way to blunt political challenges by Hamas, which maintains his four-year term expired in January. Abbas' support at home has eroded steadily, both because of his perceived lack of decisiveness during the Gaza war and because his yearlong peace talks with Israel produced no results. Abbas is the leading Palestinian proponent of a peace deal with Israel, but with a right-wing government poised to take power in Israel, chances for new talks are slim.

Fayyad said Saturday he was resigning to "support the efforts being exerted to form a national consensus government that would reunite the homeland."

Hamas has repeatedly demanded that Fayyad step down and officials of the militant Islamic group reacted dismissively.

"This government did not work for the sake of the Palestinians, it worked for its own agenda. This end was expected for a government that was illegal and unconstitutional," said Fawzi Barhoum, a Hamas spokesman in Gaza.

Despite the sour note, preparations for Egyptian-brokered unity talks were moving forward.

WORLD BRIEFS

2 British soldiers killed in N. Ireland gun ambush

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)—Two British soldiers were shot to death and four other people were wounded in a drive-by ambush Saturday night that politicians blamed on Irish Republican Army dissidents. Witnesses said the gunmen struck at the main gate of the Massereene army barracks in Antrim west of Belfast as a group of soldiers and civilian army staff were collecting pizzas from a deliveryman. Gunmen who apparently had been following the deliveryman raked the army personnel with assault-rifle fire, then sped off. Politicians from both the British Protestant majority and Irish Catholic minority blamed Irish Republican Army dissidents, although none of the IRA splinter groups claimed responsibility.

Study: Iraqis mentally resilient amid war

BAGHDAD (AP)—About 30 percent have been exposed to shootings or bombings. Others have witnessed killings or mutilated bodies. Nearly 10 percent had a family member kidnapped or had been abducted, captured or imprisoned themselves. The trauma experienced by respondents of Iraq's first nationwide mental health survey, which was released Saturday, was a grim litany of the violence that pushed the country to the brink of civil war. The study, conducted by the World Health Organization and the Iraqi government, found that Iraqis have suffered from a surprisingly low rate of severe mental disorders such as PTSD, which officials said indicated resilience in the face of decades of war and hardship. The findings showed that nearly 17 percent of a random sample of 4,332 Iraqis over the age of 18 surveyed had suffered from a mental disorder in their lifetime, ranging from post-traumatic stress disorder to depression.

der in their lifetime, ranging from post-traumatic stress disorder to depression.

Zimbabwe: Tsvangirai leaves hospital after crash

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai left the hospital bandaged and mourning his wife Saturday after a car crash that his supporters blamed partly on insufficient security provided by President Robert Mugabe. Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change called for an investigation into the collision with a truck carrying U.S. aid, but cautioned against concluding that it was the latest assassination attempt against the longtime opposition leader. Friday's crash nonetheless "could have been avoided" if Tsvangirai had the kind of motorcade that usually travels with Mugabe, said Tendai Biti, the country's new finance minister and Tsvangirai's No. 2 in the party.

Russia offers hope for global disarmament talks

GENEVA (AP)—Russia's foreign minister called Saturday for an end to a decade of failure in global disarmament talks, seeking to build on an upbeat meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Sergey Lavrov said a stalemate at the Conference on Disarmament on issues from atomic bombs to space weapons can be broken now that the U.S. administration is "in favor of multilateral approaches to the maintenance of international security and disarmament." "The right moment has come today, for the first time after the end of the Cold War, for making real progress in resuming the global disarmament process on a broad agenda," Lavrov told the 65-nation body.

ASIAN BRIEFS

King of Philippine rap, Francis Magalona, dies

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Francis Magalona, known as the king of Philippine rap music, has died of complications from leukemia, his colleagues said. He was 44. A rapper, songwriter and producer, Magalona, who also went by the name FrancisM, shot to national fame with his 1990 album "Yo!" and the hit song "Mga Kababayan Ko" (My Countrymen), in which he urged fellow Filipinos to be proud of their heritage, work hard and strive for a better life. His 1992 album "Rap Is FrancisM" tackled the Philippines' many problems, including illegal drugs and political instability, making Magalona one of the most politically conscious voices of his generation. He also appeared on the popular TV variety show "Eat Bulaga." One of the show's hosts, Vic Sotto, announced that Magalona died Friday in a Manila hospital while undergoing treatment for leukemia. Magalona also used to be a VJ on MTV Asia.

Karzai says he could rule months beyond his term

KABUL (AP)—President Hamid Karzai accepted a decision to schedule elections Aug. 20, but suggested Saturday he should keep power during the three-month gap after his term expires in May, setting up a possible constitutional showdown. An opposition leader said parliament won't accept

Health & Fitness

Work your muscles throughout the day

By **JEANNINE STEIN**
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

If you don't move around nearly enough during the workday, you might need to compensate with these flexibility-enhancing moves suggested by personal trainers. Some moves require minimal equipment such as dumbbells; others can be done at one's desk or against an unoccupied bit of wall space. Sure, the moves might raise a few eyebrows in the office, but while everyone else is reaching for pain relievers, you'll be sprinting out the door ready for after-hours socializing.

lengthen. Do these about two to three times and hold for about 15 seconds. To modify this, drop to your knees but watch the hip position and avoid bending the body at the hips. You should still feel the extension in the hip flexors.

Then, for a great stretch for the neck and shoulders, let your left arm hang down at your side and look over your right shoulder. Press your right hand into your chin. Do the other side as well. That gets the levator scapulae and the scalene muscles—smaller muscles in the neck that get tensed up a lot.

For help with rounded shoulders,

line—never go any higher than that. Hold that position for two seconds, then take the arms down slowly. Do three sets of 15 to 20 reps. You can do this standing or sitting, but sitting may be a little more challenging because you're less likely to use momentum to move the weights. This will take the pressure off the neck, especially if you sit at a computer all day and strain your neck trying to read the screen.

■ In general, it's a good idea to work on core exercises. You move through your core, and you need a strong core for everything—walking, standing,



Personal trainer
Tasha Turner
likes to use light
dumbbells to help
strengthen the
shoulders.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

PETE MCCALL

Exercise physiologist with the American Council on Exercise, and a San Diego-based personal trainer

For clients who sit all day, I like to do three exercises.

■ The first is a bridge, where you lie on your back with your feet on the floor, legs bent and push your hips up to the ceiling while squeezing the glutes. The activation of the glute muscles sends a signal to the hip flexors to relax, and it allows them to lengthen. Push the hips up on a one-two count, hold for about a second and take about three to four seconds to come down. Do that about 12 to 15 times and really emphasize the contraction of the glutes.

■ The next one is a quadruped, or a bird dog. Begin on hands and knees, making sure your wrists are under your shoulders, knees are under your hips and your head and neck are aligned with your spine. Extend your right arm and left leg straight out at the same time. While you're doing this, contract your ab muscles and feel the stretch through the upper chest muscles and the hip flexor. Do this about 10 to 12 times on each side, either alternating or staying on the same side and then switching.

■ The third one is a plank. The body is supported on the forearms and the toes, and you should try to keep the hips and the shoulders at the same height. Contract the core muscles, and the glutes and the quadriceps. As with the bridge, as the glutes contract the hip flexors relax and

stand two to three feet in front of a wall, with your back toward the wall. Rotate the body to the right side and reach up and touch the wall with your right hand as if reaching for something on a shelf. Do the same on the left. This opens up the pectoral muscles and the obliques in the abdomen. It's also a good stretch for the hip flexors.

TASHA TURNER

Personal trainer
The Sports Club/LA Beverly Hills in Beverly Hills, Calif.

■ The hip flexors tend to get tight if you sit all day, so you want to release that tension and stretch and strengthen them as much as possible. Before you do strengthening exercises, you want to stretch them out with something like a bridge.

■ I love squats for strengthening the hips, and you can do them with just your body weight. Three sets of 20 reps is good, or you can try doing them continuously for one minute. If you want definition in your legs, do them with weights for three to four sets of eight to 10 reps. As you progress, increase the weight to shock the system and avoid plateaus.

■ I'm a die-hard fan of lateral raises to strengthen the shoulders, but doing them with bent elbows really isolates the shoulder muscle and takes the strain off the neck. Start by holding light dumbbells (about 3 to 5 pounds) by your side, with elbows bent. Raise the arms, making sure the elbows and shoulders are in a straight

even sitting.

ERIC FLEISHMAN

Personal trainer
Powerhouse Gym in Burbank, Calif.

■ One good quick stretch is putting your leg up on a desk or a chair and, keeping the knee slightly bent, reaching down and trying to grab your toe. This allows your hamstrings to get a stretch, which is good if you've been sitting all day. You'll really feel it in the back of your leg, and it has a great effect on the lower back because it promotes blood flow to the region. Then do the other leg.

■ You should pay attention to your posture, which is incredibly important for body alignment and feeling good, and how you're sitting. We do an exercise at the gym where we take a small bottle of water that's about one-third full and place it on someone's head and have them walk around, which is very "My Fair Lady," but it teaches you what proper posture feels like. You can do the same thing sitting at a desk.

■ There's almost nothing better to stretch your shoulders, your trapezius muscles and your back by finding a chin-up bar and allowing yourself to hang. It's almost like picking up a necklace from a table—it allows the spine and vertebrae to fall into place. It's important not to hold your breath, and you can hang anywhere from eight to 15 seconds. For a more advanced move, swing a little bit back and forth.

Staying fit is a challenge worth meeting, wherever you may be

By **HOWARD SCHNEIDER**
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

If all goes according to plan, I'll be over the Atlantic Ocean heading to the Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv this week when I start a new assignment as The Post's Jerusalem bureau chief, so this will be the last exercise column under my byline.

Post Health section mensch-in-chief Frances Stead Sellers briefly entertained the idea of letting me continue to write about fitness from Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. But once we got down to brass tacks, it didn't seem practical. (Be honest now, how many of you would show up if we did a trail challenge along the Via Dolorosa?) Vicky, of course, will continue to write—and probably continue to ignore any semblance of upper-body training, though she is married now so maybe Mr. Vicky will nag her some since I can't anymore. Meanwhile, the hunt is on in The Post newsroom to find her a new sidekick.

By way of signing off, I thought I would distill the chief things I have learned about fitness and exercise in the past two years. It may be difficult to do so without dredging up a cliché or two, but here goes:

1. It's all our own fault. Finding ourselves out of shape and overweight is a result of choices we make to eat in an unhealthy way and avoid activity. Don't fool yourself otherwise. I am writing this on a Tuesday after spending the weekend in New Orleans with my daughter and eating one fantastic, gigantic meal after another. I can't begin to tell you how delicious praline bacon tastes, particularly after a couple of bloody marys. Turning food and drink into a pastime is a dangerous game. This weekend was a celebration. The challenge is to make sure it doesn't become a habit.

2. We're lazy. Writing the column was great motivation for me to work out. With a space to fill, a deadline to meet and the potential embarrassment of writing about this topic and not staying in reasonable shape, I kept to a pretty good schedule the past couple of years. But in the past few weeks,

time has been tight preparing to move, and I can feel the schedule slipping. I can also see how easy it is to overestimate what we do and rationalize that what we are actually achieving is adequate: I went for a run before going to New Orleans, then gorged myself over the weekend ... but I did walk a lot while I was down there, so doesn't that make up for it? What I needed to do was go running or do something a bit more strenuous during the time I was there. Four days off can become four weeks in a flash.

3. We're impatient and unrealistic. The human body is like a crusty old county councilman: He won't spend money on new roads and schools unless you convince him that they are necessary. Roads and schools don't just take money up front; they require resources every day to maintain. Likewise, your system will not invest its caloric resources in new muscle or metabolic change unless you have, through your level of activity, made a convincing case. Why build muscle that takes calories to sustain unless it is going to be used? And why keep it unless it is used? Making the case for change takes months—and sustaining it takes persistence.

4. The process does work. Despite all that, the happy talk from trainers and coaches really does have a point. If you apply yourself, your health will improve. Not to be pedantic, but you could make a case that there's a social obligation to do so. Health-care costs are distributed widely across the population, whether through government programs such as Medicaid and Medicare or the premiums paid to insurance companies. To the degree we can each minimize the risk of chronic illness—and obesity and lack of exercise have links to several types—we are doing more than just ourselves a favor.

That's a bit preachy, but I can't think of a better way to embark to the Holy Land than with a good sermon. Of course, I've already heard that there's great kayaking over there, and I've scoped out mountain biking routes online, so maybe this is not the complete last word from this wandering reporter.



THE WASHINGTON POST

Howard Schneider, center, with Vicky Hallett behind him, has kept a good workout schedule the past two years.

Life & Style

Gay Mardi Gras parade attracts 300,000 revelers

By **TANALEE SMITH**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SYDNEY (AP)—Revelers decked out in sequins, feathers, wigs and leather danced through the streets of Sydney on Saturday to the cheers of more than 300,000 people at the annual Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.

ed by male dancers dressed in Speedos and carrying scorecards.

Lifeguards, cheerleaders, nurses and sports teams strutted and spun to their floats' music. Banks, schools and churches were represented, as were the Australian Federal Police, the Defense Department and state firefighters. All of the marchers, whether flamboyant in

lashed marchers.

Low came from Queensland state to attend the parade in memory of her son, Stephen, who died of AIDS 15 years ago.

"I'm so happy because all our gay friends made this work, created something so wonderful," the white-haired woman said.



Australian beach lifeguards march during the annual Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in Sydney, Australia, Saturday, March 7, 2009. AP

More than 130 floats and 9,500 people participated in the procession, which began as a protest march in 1978 by homosexual and transsexual men and women and has flourished into one of the world's largest and most flamboyant gay pride events.

"I am totally in my element," said a transsexual who identified herself as Gummi Cat. "This is my first year being in the parade and I am absolutely loving it," she said from a carriage pulled by a man dressed in little more than a black leather harness.

The parade kicked off with Olympic gold medal diver Matthew Mitcham, who stood atop the first float surround-

feathers and high heels or wearing their official work uniforms, were grinning ear-to-ear as they waved to the crowd.

Spectators waited for up to six hours for prime viewing spots along the 1.5-mile (2.4-kilometer) route of the 31st annual parade. Many were packed 10 rows thick along the sidewalk along the main thoroughfare Oxford Street, which was lined with metal barricades and manned by police and parade officials.

"I'm blown away. It's been amazing," said 75-year-old Peg Low, who waved a rainbow flag next to a barricade near the front of the parade route and attracted hugs from a few brightly dressed and heavily eye-

American TV personality Joan Rivers, in town for her one-woman comedy show, waved from atop a truck. Another float was dedicated to slain U.S. gay rights activist Harvey Milk, the subject of a movie last year starring Sean Penn, who won an Oscar for his role.

This year's parade theme was "Nations United," a tribute to homosexuals around the world, particularly in countries where they cannot live openly.

In Australia last year, lawmakers passed legislation giving homosexual couples the same rights as heterosexuals, though they have not legalized same-sex marriages.

'The Color Purple' author traveling to Gaza

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Pulitzer-prize winning author Alice Walker, who wrote "The Color Purple," is traveling to Gaza along with other female activists to highlight the devastation of the Israeli offensive on Gaza's residents.

"I feel that what is happening in the Middle East is very important because the situation is so volatile," said Walker, speaking by telephone Saturday from the Rafah border crossing as her group waited to travel into Gaza. "I love people, and I love children and I feel that the Palestinian child is just as precious as the African-American

child, as the Jewish child."

Walker is part of a group of about 60 women going to Gaza to deliver aid and meet with NGOs and residents. The trip, organized by the U.S. anti-war group Code Pink, is intended to push both Israel and Egypt to open the borders into Gaza, said Medea Benjamin, co-founder of Code Pink who helped organize the trip.

The trip comes as efforts to reach a long-term cease-fire between Israel and the militant group Hamas have hit a roadblock. An Israeli offensive on Gaza, intended to stop rocket fire into southern Israel,

ended Jan. 18 with separate cease-fires declared by both Israel and Hamas.

Members of the group intend to stay in Gaza until March 11, Benjamin said. During their trip, timed to coincide with International Women's Day on March 8, they will also deliver baskets filled with personal items such as shampoo for women in Gaza.

Walker, who was making her first trip to Gaza, said it was important for Americans who give so much military aid to Israel to understand how their money was being used.

"It's very important that they understand what is happening, and that we hold our own administration accountable," she said.

As economy tanks, art works put up for collateral

NEW YORK (AP)—With stock portfolios plummeting and the economy tanking, owners of expensive art are increasingly using their collections as collateral to obtain a much-needed infusion of cash.

Works by Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Willem de Kooning, Andy Warhol are among the pieces collectors have leveraged in recent months. The Metropolitan Opera put up two famed Marc Chagall murals in its lobby as collateral, and renowned photographer Annie Leibovitz recently borrowed \$15 million against her entire collection of images.

A New York company that issues loans against fine and decorative arts and real estate says it has seen a 40 to 50 percent increase in business over the last six months. Leibovitz obtained her loan from the firm, Art Capital. Other celebrities who reportedly have secured funds with their own works include film director Julian Schnabel.

Art Capital co-owner Ian Peck said the firm has "taken in important modern masters, important old masters and very important decorative arts," among other valuable pieces. The firm said it expects to make about \$120 million in loans in 2009, up from \$80 million last year.

Art collections can be lifesavers for people looking for extra cash. The art works are appraised and treated as collateral just like a car or home would be. Art brokers say that people offering up their collections are doing it for a number of reasons, including dealing with financial issues, raising money for businesses or buying more art. Some of the cash-strapped art owners have been burned by Ponzi schemes, Peck said.

Art Capital and Art Finance Partners, another New York lending firm, have also started to hear from small museums and other institutions whose endowments have been deeply cut by a severe drop in private donations.

"With the stock market down 40 to 50 percent, people's liquidity is really drying up," said Andrew Rose of Art Finance. "If you're unfortunate to have a lot of stock at Citibank or Lehman Brothers you may have been wiped out substantially."

Art owners are turning to established banks, too. Citigroup and Bank of America, two of a very small num-

ber of large banks involved in art lending, have seen a huge growth in the past several months in the number of clients putting art up as collateral. The banking crisis has not had any significant effect on their art lending.

Bank of America's U.S. Trust saw a 50 percent increase in clients who leveraged their art between the first quarter of 2008 and the same period this year, said art lending head John Arena.

Citigroup's Citi Private Bank employs a group of eight art professionals who advise wealthy collectors on everything from building, appraising and managing their art to securing loans.

"We are working with clients who are using art as collateral with the aim of getting liquidity from the loans to invest in other investments and other assets or to increase their art holdings," said Citi art adviser Suzanne Gyorgy.

Both banks look for high-end works of art and try to assemble a diverse portfolio. Arena said they have taken on works from Picasso, Matisse and Monet, among others.

"We look for museum quality works, very high-end pieces, and we do the values in house so it's confidential for the client," said Gyorgy. "We look for a diversified group of artists to reduce our risk by not concentrating on any one artist or area."

While auction houses also offer loans on art works, those works ultimately wind up at auction. Christie's currently is lending funds to sellers in upcoming sales but not to buyers.

New York is not the only place where wealthy individuals are pawning off possession amid the financial meltdown. In the wake of the Bernard Madoff scandal, people who saw their life savings decimated turned to a pawn broker in Palm Beach to raise cash, offering up everything from sports cars to gold jewelry.

The banks and the art-lending firms operate in different ways. The banks treat the art works as collateral and only take possession if the owner defaults on the loan, something that rarely happens.

Art Capital issues loans at interest rates ranging from 6 to 16 percent and in most cases takes possession of the art, similar to how a pawn broker would claim an item, keeping the pieces in secured storage vaults until the loan is repaid.



In this file photo of Friday, Feb. 20, 2009, photographer Annie Leibovitz stands in front of her work 'Monument Valley, Arizona 1993' as she speaks during a news conference promoting her exhibition 'A Photographer's Life 1990-2005', in Berlin, Germany. AP

'Rihanna to testify against Brown if called'

Rock Hall of Fame puts focus on Springsteen



In this Feb. 1, 2009 file photo, Bruce Springsteen, left, and Steven Van Zandt, of Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, perform at halftime at the NFL Super Bowl XLIII football game between the Arizona Cardinals and Pittsburgh Steelers in Tampa, Fla.

CLEVELAND (AP)—Seeking something fresh and exciting to complement its upcoming induction ceremony, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum has gotten its fondest wish - the cooperation of 1999 inductee Bruce Springsteen in launching a new exhibit solely dedicated to the Boss.

The hall on Friday announced plans to open the exhibit "From Asbury Park to the Promised Land: The Life and Music of Bruce Springsteen" on April 1, three days before the hall holds its induction ceremonies in Cleveland. Featuring various memorabilia from Springsteen, the exhibit is expected to run through the spring of 2010.

"He's someone we've always wanted to do a big exhibit on," said Jim Henke, the Rock Hall's curator. "So it's one of those things that I'd bring up with his manager from time to time. Last summer they said,

"Yes, it makes sense now."

It's perfect timing for a year that has been pretty Springsteen packed already. He performed during festivities surrounding the inauguration of President Barack Obama, released his latest album, "Working on a Dream," in January, then was the halftime entertainment at the Super Bowl last month. He's planning a major tour to kick off April 1 in San Jose, Calif., and will even make an appearance at the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival in June.

Henke says the Springsteen exhibit may be the most extensive exhibit on a rock star ever done at the hall. Previous exhibits have focused on the lives and careers of John Lennon, Bob Dylan and Ray Charles.

Springsteen has provided various guitars, including the one he holds on the cover of "Born to Run," the album that helped rocket his popular-

ity. The exhibit also will have scrapbooks and notebooks in which Springsteen wrote many song lyrics.

"Once (Bruce) knew this was real, that it would really happen, he wanted it to have as much depth as it could possibly have," said Jon Landau, Springsteen's manager and board member of the hall. "He is fully behind this exhibition and the effort the museum has made to really get things right."

Henke is hopeful that eventually Springsteen will make his first visit to the Rock Hall since it opened nearly 14 years ago. Landau said he's sure that the Boss eventually will visit the exhibit.

"I think we'll have to visit at some other time than the official opening, but Bruce is looking forward to seeing it as soon as it's possible for him," Landau said.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rihanna's attorney says the singer would testify against Chris Brown if called as a witness in her boyfriend's assault case. Donald Etra, who is representing the 21-year-old Barbados native, said Friday that Rihanna would be required by law to testify if prosecutors subpoena her.

Etra appeared in court Thursday when Brown made his first appearance on charges of assaulting and making criminal threats to his superstar girlfriend. Brown's arraignment was postponed until April 6.

Etra said Rihanna did not want a "no contact" order issued against Brown, but that she will report any violations of an order prohibiting the 19-year-old singer from threatening, harassing or harming his girlfriend. A court order grants her the authority to record any violations of the order.

The order is not uncommon in cases where a victim says he or she doesn't want to completely cut off communication with a person, said Steve Cron, a Santa Monica criminal defense attorney who has represented celebrities such as Paula Poundstone and Scott Weiland.

"There are limits to when you can record phone calls and conversations," Cron said. "She can record those conversations if it's for the purpose of showing there's a violation of the restraining order."



In this Feb. 7, 2009 file photo, Rihanna arrives at the Clive Davis pre-Grammy party in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Etra said Rihanna, whose real name is Robyn Rihanna Fenty, wants the case over with quickly. "She wants to get along with her life and career," he said.

Brown was arrested Feb. 8 stemming from an altercation that police say he had with Rihanna in a car in an upscale Los Angeles neighborhood.

A search warrant affidavit filed by a Los Angeles police detective

described a brutal fight in which Brown allegedly punched, bit and choked Rihanna until she nearly lost consciousness.

He issued a statement a week after the incident, saying he was "sorry and saddened" by what had happened. He politely answered a court commissioner's questions during his brief appearance Thursday, but did not speak to reporters afterward.

Coolio out on bail after drug arrest at LA airport

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities say rapper Coolio has been released on bail after being arrested on suspicion of drug possession.

He was arrested and booked on felony narcotics possession after being stopped at Los Angeles International Airport on Friday morning.

The 45-year-old Coolio, whose real name is Artis Leon Ivey Jr., was released after posting \$10,000 bail.

The arrest was first reported by the celebrity gossip Web site TMZ.com.

Coolio's manager, Susan Haber, said she had not yet spoken with the rapper and could not comment.

The rapper, who gained fame for his 1995 single "Gangsta's Paradise," was arrested in June on an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for driving with a suspended license.

In this July 20, 2008 file photo, rapper Coolio poses on the press line at the "NBC Universal 2008 Press Tour All-Star Party" in Beverly Hills, Calif.



FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory

We, the Family of the late

Isabel Cepeda DeLeon Guerrero



Would like to invite all relatives and friends to join us commemorate her First Year Death Anniversary of her passage unto eternal life.

Mass will be offered at Santa Soledad Mission Parish in Kagman on the following dates and time:

Tuesday	March 10, 2009	6:00 PM
Wednesday	March 11, 2009	6:00 PM
Thursday	March 12, 2009	6:00 PM
Friday	March 13, 2009	6:00 PM
Saturday	March 14, 2009	6:00 PM
Sunday	March 15, 2009	9:00 AM
Monday	March 16, 2009	6:00 PM
Tuesday	March 17, 2009	6:00 PM

Nightly Rosary will also be prayed at the residence of her daughter, Velma Dlg. Dela Cruz in Kagman III, Alageta Road, Puteng Drive at 7:30 PM. On the Final Day, Wednesday, March 18, 2009, Rosary will be prayed at the residence at 12:00 PM. Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 PM at Santa Soledad Church in Kagman. Dinner will follow at the residence.

May God Bless Us All

From Jose M. DLGuerrero, Velma Dlg. Dela Cruz, Children and Family

Morgan gets darker than 'Grey's' in 'Watchmen'

By GEOFF BOUCHER
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO—Jeffrey Dean Morgan chuckled through cigarette smoke and held up a homemade key chain that had just been passed to him by a stranger. "Look at this," he said in a tobacco-cured growl as he nodded toward the photograph in the dangling plastic frame; it was a hazy picture of the actor's Rottweiler mix, Bisou. "These fans, they are something," the actor said with a tone of marvel and some low-grade alarm. "Wow. I mean, this is my dog."

After years as a struggling actor, Morgan, 42, has been receiving an intense indoctrination in the ways of celebrity. First, the Seattle native took on the role of Denny Duquette, the doomed hunk with a heart, on "Grey's Anatomy" and connected with fans and the show's producers so deeply that the character was brought back from the dead (sort of) to become a spectral lover for Katherine Heigl's confused Izzy Stevens. And now, as a star of "Watchmen," the superhero epic that reaches theaters Friday, Morgan finds himself becoming an instant icon to the fans of the graphic novel and its anticipated Hollywood adaptation.

"These people take ('Watchmen') very seriously, and with good reason," Morgan said last weekend after several hours at WonderCon, the pop-culture expo at the Moscone Center. Thousands of fans had waited in line to hear Morgan and fellow cast members talk about their characters and themselves on a panel.

On "Grey's," Morgan was "the ultimate nice guy," as he put it, but fans of that show are in for a shock if they decide to take in a weekend matinee of "Watchmen," an adaptation of the 1980s graphic novel by writer Alan Moore and artist Dave Gibbons that presented a political and operatic tale of superheroes liv-



Jeffrey Dean Morgan plays the brutal Comedian in "Watchmen."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

ing in an alternative version of America. Morgan portrays Eddie Blake, a.k.a. the Comedian, a scarred, leering "hero" who "rapes, murders and pillages his way through the movie," Morgan said with some delight.

"It's not Denny Duquette," he said, "not by a long shot."

"Long shot" could have described Morgan's career not so long ago. In 2005, Morgan was no longer a young man who could get by on optimistic daydreams. He found himself at a career crossroads and wondered if it was time to give up on his showbiz pursuits.

"I was sitting there thinking, 'What am

I doing?' I had been out here 20 years, and things just weren't coming my way; the rent was always late," Morgan said. "I was thinking it was time to try something—although I had no idea what that was going to be. ... Construction was all I could come up with. 'Maybe I can get a job in construction.'"

'Watchmen' carries a license to snuff

By GEOFF BOUCHER
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

undeniable end of times aura that surrounds "Watchmen" and goes beyond the doomsday plot and despairing Cold War vibe.

"Watchmen" has endured a long, ugly slog to the screen—legal battles over the property were resolved only in recent weeks.

The author of the graphic novel, Alan Moore, has ranted against Hollywood and its evils. "I will be spitting venom all over it," Moore vowed last year.

More than that, comic-book fans, a notoriously strident constituency, have spent months debating whether "Watchmen" is the greatest film ever or the worst movie of all time.

"The unfilmable film" is how Snyder wearily refers to "Watchmen," a superhero movie that will try to pull in a mass audience of nonbelievers with a 161-minute running time, no big-name stars, a hard R-rating and a hard-to-explain plot that takes place in an alternate version of Earth where Richard M. Nixon is in his fifth presidential term but the most powerful man on the planet is Dr. Manhattan, a glowing superhero who spends much of his screen time showing off his iridescent blue penis.

For fanboys, this is the most eagerly anticipated and debated film opening since Tim Burton's first excursion into Gotham City in 1989, which signaled the beginning of the modern era of superhero cinema. Unlike Burton's "Batman," though, there is doubt about whether this grisly film will become a box-office hit.

Even the people involved in the film seem uncertain whether they have delivered a game-changing epic or a sordid spandex opera. "I just can't wait to see what people think of it, and I have no idea how it will be received," said Jeffrey Dean Morgan (known to "Grey's Anatomy" fans as dead Denny Duquette), who portrays the Comedian, a masked brute who murders for his government masters.

"I will tell you this: It's not a movie people have seen before. It's truly ambitious, and it's great to be part of that no matter what happens," Morgan said.

Snyder came into the film after the resounding success of "300," the 2007 hyper-reality sword tale (adapted from Frank Miller's Dark Horse comics) that blindsided Hollywood with its record box office for a March release.

That movie, like Robert Rodriguez's take on Miller's "Sin City,"

was zealously faithful to the original comics, almost panel for panel at some points, and "Watchmen" has a similar allegiance. That's led to industry jokes about whether Snyder is a "visionary director" (as he is labeled in the Warner Bros. ad campaign for "Watchmen") or a comics fan with good eyesight.

Supporters of Snyder, though, write that off as talk by people who don't understand that "Watchmen" is a religious scroll.

Deborah Snyder, the director's wife and a producer of "Watchmen," said the film has been "a million decisions made, and every one of them was to get the story on the screen with integrity."

Her team, she said, was not going down in history as the people who found the Holy Grail and dropped it.

"We feel," she said, "a great responsibility."

This weekend, the Snyders are scheduled to be in San Francisco for a comic-book convention, one more stop to win the hearts and minds of fans. "I don't think anyone who has never heard of 'Watchmen' can quite know what it means to these fans," Snyder said. "There have been a lot of battles. More than people even know. But this is worth fighting for."

Instead of putting on work boots, Morgan found himself getting a foothold in Hollywood. He landed a role as the missing and mysterious father on "Supernatural," the CW horror-drama about a pair of brothers who find the paranormal lurking in every stop during their cross-country travels in a black 1967 Chevy Impala (think "Route 66" meets "The X-Files").

Morgan also popped up on "Weeds," the Showtime series about suburban dope-dealing; he played Judah Botwin, the husband of star Mary-Louise Parker's Nancy Botwin, but his character's most notable accomplishment was dying of a heart attack and setting the stage for his widow's career as a pot merchant.

"Those roles and 'Grey's' turned everything around," Morgan said. "I went from giving up to, six months later, having the sort of roles I always had hoped for."

In "Watchmen," Morgan and costar Jackie Earle Haley (who plays an obsessive masked misanthrope named Rorschach) are the actors getting the most early praise in an ensemble that also includes Billy Crudup and Malin Akerman. The Comedian's name is ironic (just like the Joker, last year's most memorable comics character on screen), and he barrels through the movie as a ferocious government operative who delights in his black-bag assignments and, for a time, shrugs off casualties in his personal life. The role easily could have slipped into two-dimensional thug, but fans of the film say Morgan's portrayal has more layers.

In May, Morgan starts filming "The Resident" with Hilary Swank. ("It's a 'Fatal Attraction' sort of psycho thing," he says.) He's hoping that his schedule will let him move forward with plans to costar in Joel Silver's "The Losers," an adaptation of the DC Comics series that would put him back in fanboy-film territory.

Snyder battled with studio chiefs to keep the film long, R-rated (bone-snapping fights, torrid superhero sex and the blue penis) and devoid of A-list movie stars.

On the latter, he said: "I wanted actors, not pop-culture names, and I got everybody I wanted." The film is a murder mystery that opens into a conspiracy tale, but like "GoodFellas," the movie is about a tribe of outsiders who find themselves dragged down by betrayal in an increasingly cynical world.

The movie also has a "Forrest Gump" quality to it, with appearances by actors playing Fidel Castro, Mick Jagger, Leonid Brezhnev and Andy Warhol, not to mention an opening montage with Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'" as the soundtrack.

Snyder said it's advantageous that "Watchmen" didn't get made sooner. Only now, with the superhero cinema truly alive, is the genre ripe for snuffing.

"Twenty years ago, my parents wouldn't know who the 'X-Men' were, and now everybody knows that stuff," Snyder said. "It means that deconstruction of the superhero is something you can do. All those movies have led to a point where we can finally have 'Watchmen' with a Superman character who doesn't want to save the world and a Batman who has trouble in bed. Essentially, I want to kill the superhero movie because now we can."

BURNABY, British Columbia—On a wintry day here in 2008, director Zack Snyder hunkered down in a prison cell, peered between the bars and watched inmates riot.

The smoke and screams made him smile; the fiery cellblock looked identical to the one in the hand-drawn pages of "Watchmen," the landmark 1985 graphic novel. Snyder didn't have to rely on memory—he had a rolled-up copy of the comic book on the set with him.

"Every day I think, 'I can't believe I get to make this come alive,'" Snyder said that afternoon outside Vancouver in an old paper mill that had been turned into a penitentiary for his \$100-million film.

"Watchmen" finally reaches theaters Friday and will arrive as the most controversial superhero film ever made.

Snyder, 43, an affable father of six, has been the picture of patience in the face of private setbacks and public challenges to the film, but while filming that riot scene, a wicked grin crossed his face.

"We're killing the comic-book movie; we're ending it," Snyder said. "This movie is the last comic-book movie, for good or bad."

It was a playful pledge, of course. "The Dark Knight" has hit \$1 billion in worldwide box office, and no less than a dozen comic-book films are in the Hollywood pipeline. But there is a

Kanye West booked with Clarkson on 'American Idol'

NEWYORK (AP)—“American Idol” is about to get a double dose of star power: Kanye West and Kelly Clarkson.

The Grammy winners will share the stage as performers during Wednesday’s elimination show.

West, making his first appearance on the top-rated Fox series, will perform his hit song “Heartless” from his latest album “808s & Heartbreak.”

Clarkson, the original “American Idol,” will sing her chart-topper “My Life Would Suck Without You,” off her new album that drops Tuesday.

The show - a ratings juggernaut since it debuted in 2002 - has attracted numerous top artists as mentors and performers in recent seasons. Among them: Mariah Carey, Prince, Gwen Stefani, Dolly Parton and Jennifer Lopez.

In this July 25, 2005 file photo, Kelly Clarkson, left, and Kanye West announce the MTV Video Music Awards nominees during a news conference in Miami Beach, Fla.

AP



'Idol' singer Anoop dreams of Kanye collaboration

NEW YORK (AP)—Would Kanye West be willing to give Anoop Desai a shot in the studio?

Desai, a contestant on “American Idol,” is hoping to meet West - and talk about a future collaboration - when West makes his first trip to the top-rated Fox series, performing his hit “Heartless” during Wednesday’s elimination show.

On this week’s wild card round, Desai snagged the

last spot—lucky No. 13—in the finals.

The 22-year-old college student from Chapel Hill, N.C., would appreciate style advice from West.

“I’m definitely going to pick his brain - we’ll see if he has anything to lend me too,” joked Desai, who loves R&B music and got the “Idol” audience moving with his performance of Bobby Brown’s

“My Prerogative.”

Desai said he also wants to collaborate with rapper Ludacris and would faint if Stevie Wonder returned as a celebrity mentor on “American Idol.”

Desai joined fellow wild card finalists Jasmine Murray, Megan Corkrey and Matt Giraud in a teleconference Friday.

“I didn’t think I was going to make it through the first (audition),” said Corkrey, a

22-year-old single mother from Sandy, Utah. “I never even made a solo in choir in high school, so I didn’t think I was going to go anywhere.”

Corkrey has emerged as one of this year’s quirkiest hopefuls. She said she has seven tattoos—including that ink-stained sleeve on her right arm, which she describes as a work in progress. She can’t explain her spastic dancing style.

Oprah Winfrey sharing cover of ‘O’ with first lady

CHICAGO (AP)—After sharing the cover of her magazine

with her slimmer self a couple months back, Oprah Winfrey is

for the first time sharing it with somebody else: first lady Michelle Obama.

Winfrey showed off the cover of the April issue during “The Oprah Winfrey Show” broadcast Friday. The media mogul had gone solo on the “O” magazine cover for nine years.

In the issue that will hit the newsstands March 17, Winfrey

interviews the first lady about topics ranging from her decorating philosophy to how she hopes she can help other women.

In the interview, Obama talks about her first weekend in the White House and how the Obama family sees it as their responsibility to make the White House what she calls the “people’s house.”

Father of Italian painting gets big Rome show

By FRANCES D’EMILIO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ROME (AP)—For the father of Italian painting, Rome is putting on a mother of all shows.

An ambitious exhibit of works by Giotto and his pupils, the first on such a scale in Italy since the times of Mussolini, opened in the Italian capital on Friday.

Twenty masterpieces by Giotto, including wood paintings, frescoes and stained glass, are on display through June 29 in the monumental Vittoriano Complex near central Piazza Venezia.

Another 130 artworks help visitors appreciate Giotto’s

revolutionary influence on his pupils and other artists of the early 14th century.

If Dante gave Italy a new literary language, Giotto, who lived in most of the same decades, gave his homeland a new pictorial language.

Giotto pioneered a fresh approach to painting, breaking with centuries of Byzantine art. His paintings show the psychological state of his subjects. The spatial techniques experimented by Giotto, who was also an architect, left a legacy for Renaissance artists, said Alessandro Tomei, a medieval art professor and one of the exhibit’s curators.

Daughter says new girlfriend is nothing but trouble for dad

DEAR ABBY: I am 20. My father, who recently turned 50, is dating a girl, “Amber,” who is only 19. I went to high school with Amber, and I know for a fact there isn’t a lot she has to offer him unless it’s trouble.

Our parents divorced 16 years ago, and Dad hasn’t had another woman in his life who he really liked. He has dated casually, but this is turning into something serious. They have been seeing each other only a few weeks, and they are now talking about an engagement.

Abby, Amber has a 6-month-old son. The child’s father will have nothing to do with her or the baby. I think she’s after Dad for the money, and I do not approve of their relationship. What should I do?



Dear Abby

UPSET IN FLORIDA

DEAR UPSET: Calm down and bide your time. Their relationship is fresh and new, and many people mistake passion for love in the beginning. Rather than saying you don’t approve, if you are given the opportunity, suggest to your father that he and Amber “get to know each other better” before rushing into anything. If the engagement happens, let your father’s attorney in on what’s happening. That way he can suggest to your dad the wisdom of having a prenuptial agreement, so he and Amber will both be protected.

P.S. Give the girl a chance. She may not be in it for the money. What she may be looking for is a stable husband and father for her son, and in return she could make your father happy.

DEAR ABBY: My son, “Jasper,” is a part-time student living at home and working with me in our family business. He was not at home and ready to work this morning. This isn’t the first time it has happened.

I have told my son that I enjoy working with him and consider him an asset to the business, but he needs to be more reliable. I have suspended him for one week without pay.

My wife feels I’m being harsh, but any other employer would do the same or worse. I feel Jasper needs to learn the facts of life in the working world. Do you agree with my decision?

JOE IN SACO, MAINE

DEAR JOE: I certainly do. One of the most important elements in achieving success in any career is showing up for the job. If your son can’t accept that, then perhaps he would learn the truth of it by working in something other than the family business for a year.

DEAR ABBY: I am 15 and have been in love with “Caleb” for four years. He never noticed me until recently, when he started sitting next to me and talking to me. We are good friends now, and I have been told he likes me, too.

I am happy about it, except that when we sit together, Caleb sometimes touches me in inappropriate places. If I tell him to stop, I’m afraid it will end our friendship. What should I do?

UNCOMFORTABLE IN TEXAS

DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: Speak up. If telling Caleb to stop touching you in a way that makes you uncomfortable ends your friendship, then face it—it wasn’t much of a friendship to begin with.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



AP

In this magazine cover image released by O, The Oprah Magazine, first lady Michelle Obama, left, is shown with Oprah Winfrey on the April 2009 cover “O, The Oprah Magazine,” available on newsstands March 17, 2009.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

GOSH, I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY BEANIE! I HOPE IT COMES SOON. DO YOU THINK IT WILL? IT'S PROBABLY BEEN ALMOST SIX WEEKS BY NOW, DON'T YOU THINK?

I ORDERED THE RED BEANIE. BUT WHAT IF IT'S NOT IN STOCK? SHOULD I TAKE THE BLUE ONE, OR WAIT FOR THEM TO REORDER? A BLUE ONE WOULD BE OK, I GUESS, BUT I SURE HOPE THEY HAVE A RED ONE.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A BEANIE LIKE THIS, WITH A PROPELLER. BOY, IT'LL BE SO COOL WHEN I HAVE IT. I CAN'T WAIT. WON'T A RED BEANIE! ...OR A BLUE ONE. DO YOU THINK IT WILL COME TOMORROW? DO YOU?

IT HAD SURE BETTER. YEAH, THAT'S HOW I FEEL, TOO.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

AT LEAST I'VE HAD A BUSY DAY

AND YOU THINK I HAVEN'T?

IT'S BEEN NONSTOP NOTHING ALL DAY LONG, PAL!

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DADDY, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT MY BARBIE?

WELL, DESPITE PREVAILING OPINION, I LIKE THE HAIRCUT YOU GAVE HER.

MOM SAID IT WAS TOO SHORT.

WELL, I THOUGHT IT LOOKED LIKE DOROTHY HAMILL.

WHO?

LUKE SKYWALKER'S WIFE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

RING

ROWF...ROWF
GRRR...ROWF...

STUPID TELE-BARKERS.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Poker variety

5 Crooner Damone

8 Ellipse

12 Sci-fi's Skywalker

13 Leading lady?

14 Lima's country

15 Help in a crime

16 Greek

18 Tangy green condiment

20 Noble

21 Anatomical cavities

23 West of Hollywood

24 Sasha and Malia's mom

28 Men only

31 Tavern

32 Diarist Samuel — -la-la

34 All over again

37 Wood-finishing substances

DOWN

1 Cabbage salad

39 Homer's interjection

41 Cain's victim

42 Arouse

45 Arouse

49 "Holder" of a brief explanation

51 Guy

52 Reed instrument

53 Have a bug

54 Addition-ally

55 Swiss city

56 In medias —

57 Wit-nessed

2 Big brass instrument

3 Guitars' kin

4 Remove (from)

5 Planes, trains and auto-mobiles

6 "— Got a Secret"

7 Honey-comb compartment

8 La Scala shows

9 Family feud

10 Seed covering

11 Historic sitcom star

17 Sellers co-star Herbert

19 Road Runner's sound

22 Omega's opposite

24 Biz deg.

25 Author Fleming

26 The U in "IOU"

27 Looks at intently

29 Joan of —

30 Petrol

33 Dispatched

36 Opposite of "improve"

38 South American herd

40 "Whadja say?"

42 Nose-in-the-air sort

43 Tooth-paste dispenser

44 Bosc or Bartlett

46 Hardy cabbage

47 Otherwise

48 Night light?

50 False-hood

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	C	A	M	S	P	S	Y	C	H	E
V	O	O	D	O	O	P	E	R	A	S
I	N	D	O	O	R	L	A	T	E	S
A	G	A	R	E	L	K	S	A	H	A
E	C	H	O	M	A	T				
A	R	T	H	E	W	S	B	I	D	E
T	H	E	R	E	A	L	M	C	O	Y
M	O	R	N	D	I	O	R	N	E	T
R	A	P	F	O	I	S				
L	E	I	A	B	E	T	T	R	I	O
U	M	B	R	I	A	H	A	R	O	L
S	I	L	E	N	T	E	D	I	B	L
T	R	Y	S	T	S	R	O	P	E	S

Saturday's answer 3-9

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bow Wow, 22; Emmanuel Lewis, 38; Robin Trower, 64; Mickey Gilley, 73

Happy Birthday: Just when you think you have everything under control you can expect the unexpected. This will be yet another year of change and searching for your ultimate dream. Once you master the present, the past will become clear and the future that much more inviting. Let your emotions lead the way. Your numbers are 3, 15, 18, 20, 24, 32, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You have no time to waste and certainly cannot walk away from what's important to your future. Believe in yourself and your talent and you can be successful. Quitting is not an option. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Trying to push your way into anything will not meet with approval or success. For now, take one step at a time, making each move count. Watch what others do and listen to what they say. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may want to be the leader but don't expect to get that role without a fight. The competition is great. Put creative and original ideas on the table and you will spark an interest in someone who can help things lean in your favor. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Try something different or new and you will be surprised by what you learn. An added push to make a change within a relationship will

help you get ahead in the future. Don't change things at home or in your personal life. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let a personal relationship cause problems for you professionally or financially. Uncertainty will make you look bad. Even if you aren't sure about something or someone, don't let on. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't hesitate or wait for someone else to make a move. Do your thing and don't look back or worry about what anyone else thinks or does. You've got your plans in place. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your ideas are spectacular and the ability to dazzle someone you really like and admire will not be difficult. There is a lot that can happen if you develop a relationship or an idea with someone special. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Listen to what's being said but don't take it as gospel. Someone is likely to feed you false information that may lead you astray. Let common sense be your guide. Don't be afraid to show your emotions or speak from the heart. ★★★★★


SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take a pass if someone is trying to get you to do something you don't want to do. You are better off getting away from home and checking out other options. You mustn't let anything or anyone hold you back. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be talked into a risky financial venture. You know better than to mix money and

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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romance. Just because you care for someone doesn't mean you should invest or support his or her dream. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotions will play a big role in the way things unfold and how you handle the situations you face. Honesty must be questioned if someone is having trouble giving you a straight answer or is hemming and hawing. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may be able to pick up some valuable information from others that will lead you into a better position. You will know how to manipulate your way to the top. Mixing business with pleasure may be fun but it will work against you. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, creative and unpredictable. You are inquisitive and you learn by watching and imitating others.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

8									1
7		6	1		4	2			9
	9			2				3	
	1			7				6	
			7	3	8	1	9		
	4			9				2	
	7			5				1	
2		3	6		9	7			4
5									3

Difficulty Level ★ 3/09

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	1	4	2	3	6	7	9	5
5	2	7	9	1	4	8	3	6
3	6	9	8	7	5	1	4	2
7	5	2	6	8	9	4	1	3
4	9	3	1	2	7	5	6	8
6	8	1	5	4	3	2	7	9
1	7	8	3	6	2	9	5	4
9	4	6	7	5	8	3	2	1
2	3	5	4	9	1	6	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/07

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FIREFIGHTING HEROES

Solution: 4 letters

E	A	F	S	R	E	T	R	A	U	Q	D	A	E	H	
H	T	L	A	©	©	©	©	©	T	D	R	C	S	E	U
I	O	A	A	I	B	A	E	R	G	T	A	L	D	N	
N	L	S	U	R	R	A	A	N	I	H	M	E	A	I	
V	O	H	E	C	M	Z	I	O	S	E	F	R	G	F	
E	R	L	K	S	A	N	N	I	T	U	V	O	I	O	
S	T	I	C	H	I	V	U	N	M	C	Y	P	R	R	
T	N	G	U	A	W	G	E	E	O	O	M	E	B	M	
I	O	H	R	A	N	M	S	M	E	M	E	U	R	E	
G	C	T	T	I	T	N	M	L	N	M	D	C	E	D	
A	A	E	T	R	O	U	L	E	I	A	A	S	D	I	
T	R	X	A	P	N	A	L	A	G	N	C	E	D	C	
O	E	P	S	I	C	A	L	E	N	D	A	R	A	C	
R	E	E	T	N	U	L	O	V	E	S	K	I	L	L	
D	R	Y	C	N	E	G	R	E	M	E	K	O	M	S	

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Academy, Action, Alarm, Brigade, Calendar, Call, Career, Code, Commands, Community, Control, Department, Emergency, Engine, Evacuate, Extinguish, Fair, Flashlight, Fumes, Gala, Gear, Hazard, Headquarters, Helmet, Hose, Investigator, Ladder, Medical, Rescue, Response, Rope, SCBA, Skill, Smoke, Teams, Training, Truck, Uniform, Volunteer, Water

Last Saturday's Answer: Delicacy

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T.O. signs \$6.5M deal with Buffalo



ORCHARD PARK, N.Y.

(AP)—Terrell Owens needed only two days to find another place to play. The Buffalo Bills decided to take a chance on the talented but high-maintenance receiver, signing Owens to a \$6.5 million, one-year deal Saturday.

The 35-year-old Owens caught 69 passes for 1,052 yards and 10 touchdowns last season with Dallas. But the Cowboys were looking to improve the atmosphere in the locker room and decided they would be better off without him.

"I'm leaving America's team (for) North America's team," Owens said at a news conference.

The Bills will be Owens' fourth stop. He started with San Francisco, bounced to Philadelphia - where he helped the Eagles get to a Super Bowl - and then to Dallas.

"I must move on, and it's another beginning for me," Owens said. "If I can be that extra added piece to get them to the playoffs, then that's what I'm here for. I looked at the defensive side of ball and offensive side of the ball, and these guys have all the pieces."

The Bills were in need of a receiver to take the pressure from Lee Evans. They got one of the biggest names out there.

"We all know of his tremendous ability and look forward to what he will bring to our offense," Bills owner Ralph Wilson said in a statement. "This is a very exciting day for the Buffalo Bills."

Owens, a six-time Pro Bowler, is among the NFL's career leaders in catches, yards and touchdowns. Over the last three years, his 38 touchdowns are one more than Randy



AP
Buffalo Bills new football player Terrell Owens smiles during a news conference Saturday, March 7, 2009 in Orchard Park, N.Y. Owens signed Saturday with the Bills only two days after the high-maintenance receiver was cut by the Dallas Cowboys.

Moss and he's among the league's best in catches, yards, yard per catch and yards per game.

He's coming off the ninth 1,000-yard receiving season in the last 11 years.

"We got one of the premier playmakers in a playmakers league," Bills chief operating officer Russ Brandon said.

For the Bills, the signing is their big-

gest splash since acquiring quarterback Drew Bledsoe in a trade in 2002. Team officials flew to Miami Saturday morning, flew back to Buffalo with Owens and agent Drew Rosenhaus, and signed the deal in the late afternoon at Bills headquarters.

"Wow! was my first reaction," Evans said. "I know we were looking at some

different receivers out there. When he was cut by the Cowboys, I didn't know if we were going to make the move for him or not. We did and it worked out. I'm very excited for everybody."

The question now is how T.O. will deal with Trent Edwards, who is only entering his second full year as starter. Jeff Garcia, Donovan McNabb and

Tony Romo have all had dicey relationships with Owens. Edwards isn't nearly as accomplished as any of those players and the Bills' offense has been abysmal in recent years.

"I am really excited about the addition of Terrell Owens to our team," Edwards said. "We spoke earlier and both look forward to working hard this offseason. We share the common goal of winning football games. His ability and experience will add to our offense and the weapons we already have."

The Bills were 25th in the NFL in yards gained and failed to have a 300-yard passer. Buffalo has ranked 25th or lower in each of the past six seasons in total offense.

"I'm looking forward to getting together with Trent, Lee and the guys and putting some points on the board," Owens said. "That's what I've done everywhere I've been, and it's going to continue."

Coach Dick Jauron has often complained about the Bills' lack of scoring punch, but this represents a serious change in philosophy for a team that in the past has tried to avoid taking on disruptive locker room personalities.

Owens, though, isn't worried about his perceived selfishness in Dallas.

"That's all hearsay," Owens said. "If you look at all the comments coming from my teammates with the Cowboys the last three years, it's all been positive. Prior to that, I really don't want to get into it."

Owens becomes the Bills fourth free agent addition this offseason. Buffalo has also signed cornerback Drayton Florence, backup quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick and former Panthers offensive lineman Geoff Hangartner.

Homers by Dunn, McCann help US edge Canada at WBC



TORONTO (AP)—

With big league stars on both sides and national pride at stake, the United States and Canada gave their World Baseball Classic opener an October feel.

Adam Dunn and Brian McCann each hit a two-run homer, and Team USA held off feisty Canada 6-5 on Saturday to avenge a surprising loss three years ago.

"This is a playoff atmosphere," U.S. pitcher Jake Peavy said. "Everything is on the line, you're doing everything you can to win and advance in this tournament, and playing for your country just takes that through the roof. It's as good an atmosphere as it gets, I believe."

Kevin Youkilis added a solo shot and J.J. Putz closed it out in a nervous ninth inning for Team USA, which was upset by Canada in the inaugural WBC.

Despite a roster loaded with major league All-Stars, that U.S. squad stumbled to a disappointing eighth-place finish - a big reason this club has talked about taking back America's game.

The intensity was evident. A fired-up McCann yelled and embraced Putz near the mound after the New York Mets reliever stranded the potential tying run at second base when Jason Bay flied out.

"It was unbelievable," Putz said. "That was definitely the loudest crowd I've ever been a part of. I haven't pitched in the playoffs, so this is what I

think playoff baseball would seem like. It was awesome out there."

Jimmy Rollins, fresh off Philadelphia's 2008 World Series title, said beating Canada felt like winning the opener of a postseason series.

"Out here it was opening day, but with the excitement and the importance of getting off to a good start, you could compare that to Game 1 of a World Series," he said. "You want to get that first win out of the way and then you can take a deep breath."

LaTroy Hawkins worked a scoreless inning for the win and Putz earned the save after allowing Joey Votto's broken-bat RBI double in the ninth that cut it to 6-5 with one out. Putz then retired Justin Morneau on a grounder and got Bay on a fly to right.

"I just tried to get ahead of him and we were able to," Putz said. "We tried to get him to chase some sliders and he laid off a couple of good ones. With (Matt) Stairs sitting on deck, he's a guy that I've had some trouble with in the past, so I really wanted to focus in and try to get Bay to end the game."

Watching the ninth inning from the dugout after going 2-for-3, Derek Jeter acknowledged feeling tense.

"It was one of those situations where you're on the edge of your seat," Jeter said. "It's a lot more nerve-racking watching, I think, than it is playing."

Votto and Russell Martin each hit a solo homer for Canada, but it wasn't enough for the hosts to repeat their 8-6

win over the U.S. in the opening round of the 2006 tournament.

"They're definitely the team to beat," Martin said. "It's the American pastime and it's their game, but we're getting better and better."

Votto, born and raised in suburban Toronto, went 4-for-5 with two RBIs before a lively crowd of 42,314.

"I can't see, if you're a baseball fan, how you can't get into this tournament," Peavy said.

The U.S. can advance to the second round with a victory in its next game, Sunday night against the winner of Saturday's late game between Italy and Venezuela. Canada will play the loser of the Italy-Venezuela game on Monday night, hoping to avoid elimination in Group C.

Peavy lasted three innings, allowing two runs and two hits. He walked three and struck out four.

"I felt like I got a lot accomplished today," he said. "I felt like I had a lot of good pitches. I didn't have any kind of breaking ball, which made it difficult to put guys away."

Canadian right-hander Mike Johnson gave up four runs and four hits in four innings. He walked three and struck out three.

Canada opened the scoring in the first when Martin walked, went to third on Votto's single and scored on Morneau's fielder's choice.

Bay walked and Matt Stairs was hit by a pitch to load the bases, but Peavy struck



AP
United States' Adam Dunn (17) celebrates as he crosses home plate after hitting a two-run home run as Canada catcher Russell Martin looks away during sixth inning action at the World Baseball Classic in Toronto on Saturday March 7, 2009. The U.S. won, 6-5.

out Mark Teahen to end the inning.

"In the first inning I maybe was trying to do a little more than I can at this time of year," Peavy said. "I just toned it down a little bit and felt like I made a lot of good pitches after I settled down."

The U.S. tied it in the second on McCann's sacrifice fly.

Votto homered into the second deck in right-center in the third, but Canada's lead was short-lived.

Youkilis tied it with a homer to right to begin the fourth. Dunn followed with a

walk and, one out later, McCann drilled the first pitch he saw into the U.S. bullpen in right.

Canada got one back in the sixth when Bay scored on Joel Hanrahan's wild pitch, but Dunn answered in the bottom half with a two-run drive to left-center.

Martin homered off Scot Shields in the seventh, but Stairs struck out with runners at first and second to end the inning.

Rollins pinch ran after Jeter's leadoff single in the fifth, but was later thrown out trying to steal second.

LeBron helps Cavaliers turn down Heat



CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James recorded a triple-double, Mo Williams scored 29 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers quickly shook off any hangover from a disappointing loss at Boston by beating Dwyane Wade and the Miami Heat 99-89 on Saturday night.

grabbed 12 rebounds to help the Atlanta Hawks beat Detroit and end the Pistons' four-game winning streak.

The Hawks entered with 1 1/2-game lead over Miami for the No. 4 spot in the Eastern Conference playoff race. Their defense held the Pistons without a field goal for a 7:59 span of the third and fourth quarters.

the playoffs since joining the NBA for the 2004-05 season, also equaled their franchise best with a fourth straight road victory.

Al Harrington scored 24 points—just four after halftime—for the Knicks.

76ers 110, Grizzlies 105

In Memphis, Tennessee, Andre Iguodala

and Damien Wilkins had 18 Oklahoma City, which lost for the first time in four games.

Bucks 127, Warriors 120

In Milwaukee, Richard Jefferson scored a season-high 35 points and the Milwaukee Bucks held off a big rally by Jamal Crawford and beat the Golden State Warriors to snap a three-game losing streak.

Crawford scored 15 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter as Milwaukee squandered a 13-point lead, but the Bucks never let Golden State take a lead late.

The Warriors got 23 points and 11 assists from Stephen Jackson, and 22 points from Corey Maggette in their returns after each missed Friday night's loss to Detroit because of injuries.

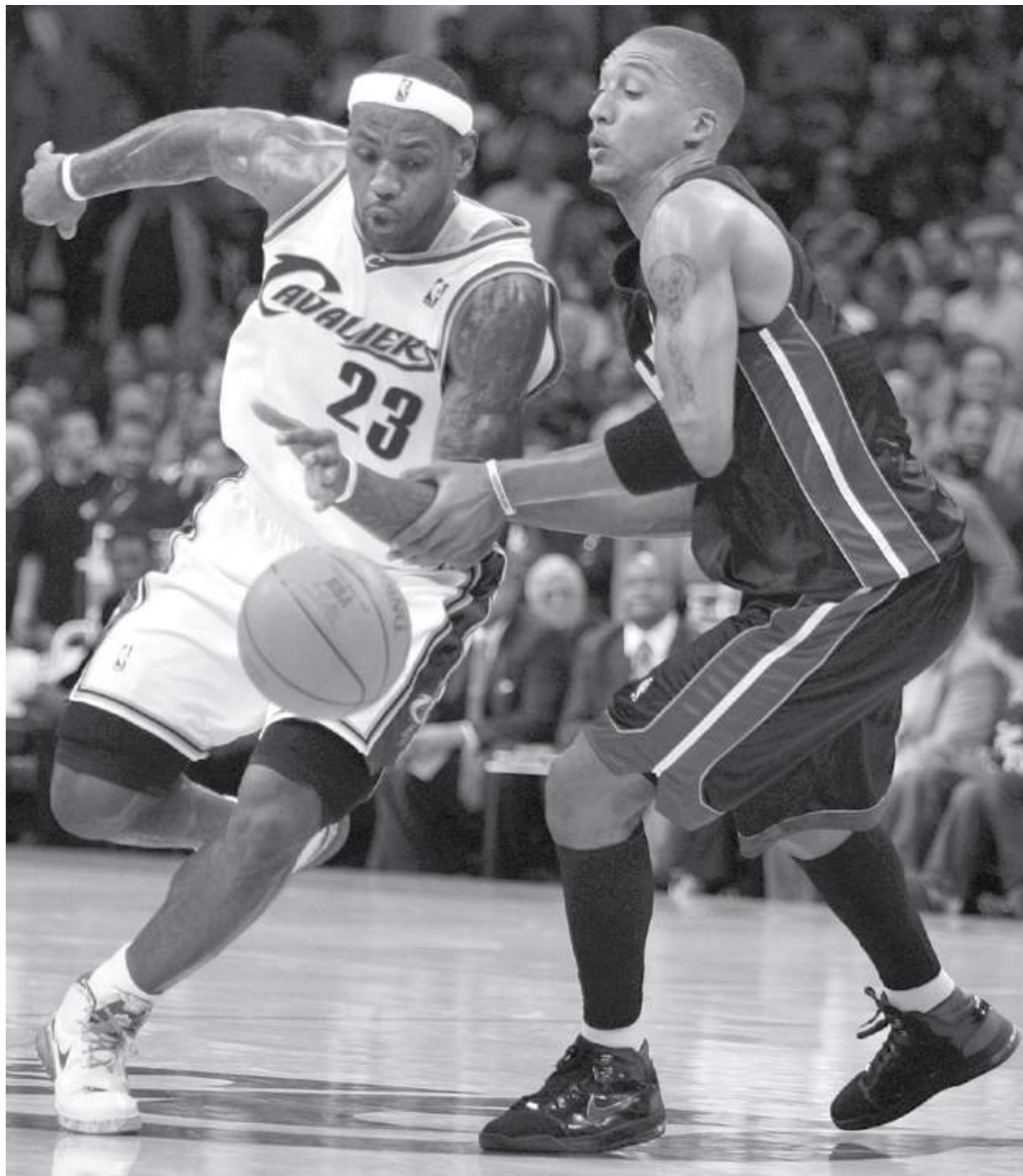
Mavericks 119, Wizards 103

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 34 points, Jason Terry equaled a season-high with 33 and the Dallas Mavericks handed the Washington Wizards their fifth straight loss.

The Wizards, the Eastern Conference's worst team at 14-49, led by as much as 10 in the first half before the Mavericks rallied to tie it at halftime.

Nowitzki had nine rebounds and a season-high seven assists, and Antoine Wright scored 16 points for Dallas, which was playing without Josh Howard. The Mavericks' starting forward has a sprained left ankle.

Antawn Jamison scored 24 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Wizards, who dropped to 4-27 on the road.



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) drives past Miami Heat's Jamarion Moon in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Saturday, March 7, 2009, in Cleveland. James scored only 14 points but added 10 rebounds and 12 assists in the Cavaliers' 99-89 win.

Wade was ejected—for the first time in his career—in the final minute after being assessed a second technical foul. He finished with 25 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds before being sent to the showers.

While running its home record to 28-1, Cleveland improved to a league-best 13-2 in back-to-back games and 12-1 following a loss.

James had 14 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds for his fourth triple-double this season and 21st of his career. He went over 3,000 assists, becoming the second-youngest player at 24 years, 67 days to eclipse the plateau. Only Isiah Thomas (23 years, 322 days) was younger.

Jermaine O'Neal had 19 points and rookie Michael Beasley 15 for the Heat, which blew an 11-point lead in the fourth on Monday to the Cavaliers.

Hawks 87, Pistons 83

In Atlanta, Josh Smith scored 19 points, Al Horford added 18 and they each

Detroit's Richard Hamilton, who had 20 points, tied it at 78 with a 3-pointer from the right corner with 4:23 remaining. But the Pistons never regained the lead after Flip Murray's 14-foot jumper put Atlanta ahead for the first time with 2:45 left in the third quarter.

The Hawks snapped a two-game losing streak, sweeping the three-game series.

Bobcats 114, Knicks 105

In New York, Gerald Wallace had 23 points and 13 rebounds, and the Charlotte Bobcats beat the New York Knicks for their franchise-record sixth straight victory.

Boris Diaw added 22 points for the Bobcats, who have the longest winning streak in the Eastern Conference and have won nine of their last 13. Raymond Felton had 19 points and 10 assists, and Raja Bell scored 17 points as Charlotte ended a four-game skid against New York.

The Bobcats, who have never made

scored 24 points, and Andre Miller added 20 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Memphis Grizzlies.

Louis Williams added with 18 points off the bench, and Thaddeus Young had 14 points for the 76ers, who had lost two in a row. Willie Green and Theo Ratliff scored 10 apiece for the Sixers, with Ratliff hitting all five of his shots.

The Sixers overcame 31 points from Mike Conley and 30 points from Marc Gasol, who both set career highs. Gasol added 13 rebounds, while Conley had nine assists for the Grizzlies, who have lost nine of their last 10.

Hornets 108, Thunder 90

In New Orleans, Chris Paul had 21 points and 13 assists, and the New Orleans Hornets won their seventh straight game.

Julian Wright tied a career high with 20 points and Rasual Butler also scored 20 for the Hornets, while David West had 14 points and 12 rebounds.

Russell Westbrook scored 24 points

Yang keeps leads at Honda Classic



PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.

(AP)—Y.E. Yang heard the question in English, then listened to his translator say it to him again.

Which would be more important, he was asked: A two-year PGA Tour exemption, or the \$1,008,000 that goes to the winner of the Honda Classic?

Yang tilted his eyes toward the ceiling, thought for a moment, then gave his reply.

"Both would be nice," he said.

He's 18 holes away from each.

Yang shot even-par 70 and finished 7 under on Saturday, good enough for a one-shot lead over Jeff Klauk (67) and Jeff Overton (70, with a triple bogey on No. 11, going twice in the water, followed by two birdies in his last three holes) entering the Honda's final round.

"I kept fighting," Overton said. "And now I've got a chance to win."

Best known for beating Tiger Woods at the 2006 HSBC Champions in Shanghai, Yang bogeyed the third hole, birdied the 15th and made nothing but pars the rest of the way, a slow-and-steady approach that worked. A victory Sunday would accomplish his primary goal for this season, getting out of a return trip to Q-School.

"I felt good," Yang said. "I just didn't make the putts I needed to."

On a topsy-turvy day at the Honda, six different players had at least a share of the lead at some point, but the guy who started the third round in front found a way to finish there, too.

Charlie Wi (65), Brett Quigley (67) and John Rollins (68) all finished two shots off Yang's pace, at 5 under.

"If you would have said, take 65 on the first tee, I would have said, 'See ya later,'" Wi said. "So, you know, I gave myself a chance."

Ben Crane briefly got into the lead with an ace on the 162-yard fifth hole, then chipped in on the next hole for birdie to get to 7 under. He then made two double bogeys in the next five holes, finishing three shots back.

And there's Mark Calcavecchia, who will start Sunday tied for seventh and in position to pull off something statistically bizarre.

He won the Honda in 1987, prevailed again 11 years later—and now, 11 years after that, is in contention again, at 4 under for the week.

"It is nice to know that I can still

compete out here with these young guys. It is," said Calcavecchia, who shot a 65 and moved three spots up the leaderboard after leaving the course. "I'm still confident in my abilities and if I play a great round tomorrow I can win the tournament. And that would be a huge thrill for me."

The guys ahead of him aren't exactly among golf's top closers.

Rollins has won twice in 238 career PGA Tour starts, and he's the only one of the first six on the leaderboard ever to win an event in golf's big leagues. Klauk is 0-for-7. Yang, 0-for-46. Wi, 0-for-84. Overton, 0-for-85. Quigley is a winner of more than \$9 million but no tour events, going 0-for-339.

Someone will have a shot at a breakthrough Sunday.

"This is what we all play for," Klauk said. "This is what you want to do. You want to win out here on tour."

Yang, Crane, Overton, Klauk, Will MacKenzie (72) and James Nitties (70) all had at least a piece of the lead at some point Saturday. MacKenzie finished in a six-way tie for seventh, three shots back. Nitties is part of a group four shots off Yang's pace.

Crane used a 9-iron for his hole-in-one, the first at the Honda in seven years. It hopped a couple of times, just below the hole, then rolled into the cup. And on the next hole, his pitch from off the right side of the green came out a bit hotter than he liked, hit the pin and dropped.

Klauk had a bit of luck as well. He hasn't needed his putter at the par-4 14th since Thursday, chipping in there in both the second and third rounds.

"Easy chip, just right in," Klauk said. "The one you want to have."

Erik Compton, in his second tour event since undergoing heart-transplant surgery for the second time, shot 73 and will start Sunday eight shots out of the lead.

"I think you can get it going out there," Compton said. "I'm hitting it well enough."

Yang simply plodded along, hitting most fairways and greens in winds that blew as strong as 24 mph.

An example of Yang's anonymity at the Honda: As he walked through the resort lobby at PGA National around noon Saturday, no one seemed to notice. The previous evening in that very same area, some caddies were being asked for autographs.

Wong leads SSC Ocean Swim winners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rezne Wong competed in his last age group ocean swim and made the most of it, topping the longest course in the 31st Saipan Swim Club Ocean Swim at World Resort Saipan yesterday.

Wong timed in at 33 minutes, 42 seconds in the 2,500-meter race, beating five other participants, including Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan teammate Cooper Graf (36:52).

Wong, who will be graduating in high school this year, ruled the boys' 15 to 19 age group, which

also featured third placer Larry Kasperbauer (40:33) of Tarakito Swim Club of Guam, SSC's Michael Moran (40:49) and Junior Pamaran (42:30), and Tarakito's Ty Ralston (46:18).

Other top winners in various age groups were Sarah Klassen, Ryosei Toda, Angel Tan, Maxi Braig, Victoria Chentsova, Kensuke Kimura, Rione Emma, Benji Schulte, Keanna Villagomez, David Palacios, Mamiko Berger, Vener Urena, Suzy Kindel, Lewie Tenorio, Kieran Daly, Monica Yamaguchi, Manny Sitchon, and Florian Braig.

Klassen timed in at 18:53.57 in the girls' 8-and-under 600m race, while Toda prevailed in the boys



Participants in the 1,000-meter race head to the water during the 31st Saipan Swim Club Ocean Swim held yesterday at Saipan World Resort.

division, clocking in at 12:15.31

Braig dominated the boys' 9 to 10 1,000m swim with his time of 16:47, outracing Kaito Yanai, Diego Shimizu, Justin Fell,

Bryce Daly, and Andrew Klassen, while Tan (17:31) defeated Dannielle Atoigue (19:47) in the girls' division.

Chentsova's timed in at 22:58.21 (1,300m) in the girls' 11 to 12 age group, prevailing over five others, while Kimura recorded 18:37.76 to win in the boys' category.

US

From Page 28

to make Team USA undefeated in its exhibition games against professional players from Japan and Korea.

The exhibition games on Friday served as one of the highlights in the 17th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival and drew a huge crowd at the Pacific Islands

Club sand court.

In the women's division, the Japanese pair of Shinako Tanaka and Hiromi Susuki defeated their opponents from Korea, Ji Youn Jung and Mi Hwa Shin, 21-12, in the opening match.

But the Japanese fell to Team USA's Snyder and Koester, 21-19.

Snyder and Koester capped their sterling show with an overpowering 21-8 victory over the Koreans.

Dalhausser, a Beijing Olympic gold medalist, did not disappoint the eager fans and yielded some from his bag of tricks, as he teamed up with the equally talented Baxter to score a 21-19 triumph over their rivals from Japan, Shimpei Aoki and Yasuo Nakaya.

"They played a good game," said Baxter of the Japanese, who then managed to squeeze out a 21-11 win over the Korean tandem of Kyung Su Shin

and Su Min Jun.

Through an interpreter, Suzuki said that they enjoyed every moment of their stay on Saipan.

"I'm having a lot of fun. I'd like to come back next year," said Suzuki, who is a first timer in the Marianas Cup.

"The people are kind and it's exciting to be here to play and gain more friends," she said.

Asked about her chances in the tournament proper, she

said it would depend on who will be her partner.

Another pro, Ji Young Jung, said although this was her second time in the Marianas Cup, she was still trying to familiarize herself with the court and the sand.

The men's and women's competitions started Saturday and ended late yesterday afternoon, but complete results were unavailable at press time.

BAXTER

From Page 28

the winning run of Dalhausser and Mister.

The Dalhausser-Mister tandem must prevail over the winner of the Elliot-Nelson vs Shinya Inoue-Shoji Wakiya in the losers' bracket semifinals to earn a rematch with Baxter and Toner.

The losers' semis match and

the title game were scheduled to be played last night.

Dalhausser and Mister began their campaign with a 21-10 blowout against Larry Sherri and Jazz Roscow, then followed this up with another easy 21-15 win over Japanese pro Yasuo Nakaya and Bruce Berline.

Dalhausser and Mister also defeated Japanese partners Shige Sasaki and Daisuke Matsumoto, 21-19, before they lost to Baxter and Toner.

In the women's division, the Japanese tandem of Yoko Miki and Chie Iwaya clinched an outright championship berth after its undefeated record in the winner's bracket.

Miki and Iwaya won their first game over Amanda and Chelsea, 21-8, then scored their biggest win via a 21-12 count at the expense of U.S. pro Jenelle Koester and Heather Kennedy.

Miki and Iwaya continued

their sterling performance with a 21-18 triumph over compatriots Keiko and Hiroko. A 21-17 victory against Kaneda and Murakami, gave Miki and Iwaya their first ticket to the finals in the women's division.

Federica Tonon and Danel-la Gitteli took the second finals slot by winning over Kaneda and Murakami, 21-17, in the losers' bracket semifinal match.

Tonon and Gitteli defeated

Linda Anastacio and Dawn, 21-10, in their first game, before losing to Hiroko and Keiko, 18-21.

Tonon and Gitteli bounced back with an upset win against Korean pro Mi Hwa Shin and Mili Saiki, 15-8, in the losers' bracket.

The Tonon-Gitelli duo then downed Koester and Kennedy, 15-10, pulled off a 21-17 win over Inoue and Hatsumi, 21-18, and Keiko and Hiroko, 21-16.

SIS

From Page 28

points, 41-16, with 1:34 seconds left in the third quarter.

Harrison Smith also scored in double figures with 13 points, 11 of them in the first two quarters. Bo Barry, who was named to the All-Conference Team, chipped in eight points.

Barry was scoreless in the third and fourth, but Alex Chung stepped up, making six points to counter the Knights' late rally. Rafael Jones added six points to complete The Geckos balance offense.

Christian Mizer, who also made it to the All-Conference Team,

scored a team high 13 points, including eight in an 18-6 run that allowed Mt. Carmel to cut the lead to 14 points, 33-47, with just over a minute left in the game.

The Knights ran out of time catching up on SIS and finished as runners-up again for the second straight year.

The Knights advanced to the finals by ousting 2008 champion Grace Christian Academy in the semifinals on Thursday, 55-54. GCA settled for third place.

That win sort of avenged the Knights' loss to the Eagles in the championship game last year.

SIS, which was third last year, advanced to the finals this time by winning over Seventh Day Adventist via forfeiture.

"We worked hard from day one and had a lot of fun doing it. We played as a team, very unselfish," said SIS head coach Rick Linkenhelt.

The other members of the new champion team included Crosby Shultz, RJ Knecht, Bill Song, Brian Mailman, Angelo Jones, and Kai Kushihata.

At the end of the finals, league organizers recognized the top individual performers in the junior varsity division. Joining Mizer and Barry in the All-Conference Team were Jin Hon of Calvary Christian Academy, Ken Orejala of GCA, Justin Poon of Saipan Community School, and Tyler Palacios of SDA.

CNMI

From Page 28

cas Knecht, Bradley Brostrom, Daniel Macario, Jose Duenas, Chris Nelson, and Norman Camacho. Coaching the CNMI bets is former Nagoya Grampus assistant coach Sugao Kambe.

The CNMI strikers will be playing Guam, Mongolai, and Macau in the round-robin tournament with the winner advancing to the semifinals, which will

be played later this year. The team to earn the most points after three games wins the preliminary competition. A victory is equivalent to three points, one for a draw, and none for a loss.

The Commonwealth's bets will debut against Macau this Thursday and will play the host in the second game on Friday. The CNMI-Mongolia tiff is set for Sunday.

This week's tournament will be the CNMI's second in the men's competition in EAFF. In

2007, the Commonwealth dueling Guam twice and lost both games. Saipan hosted the first game with the CNMI strikers almost pulling off an upset over their neighbors, losing by only a goal, 2-3. In the second meeting, Guam routed the CNMI in the former's turf, 9-0.

While CNMI will be competing in the preliminary meet for the second time, it will be the Commonwealth's strikers' first under Kambe, who has been leading the team's training ses-

sion for only over a month.

"It will be tough because I know we will be the team with the least experienced among the four squads in the tournament. But even before I came, these players have been training hard for the past several months so with teamwork and heart, I am sure, they will give opposing teams a good challenge," said Kambe, who coached in the Philippines from 2002 to 2003 and in Guam from 2003 to 2005.

"These players will never give up. They will fight for the ball always," Kambe added.

Kambe, who will also serve as technical director of Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, said the preliminary competition is very important for the CNMI, as this will give players a chance to determine what needs to be done to reach the level of competitiveness of teams the Commonwealth will be facing often in future tournaments.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	49	14	.778	—
Philadelphia	30	30	.500	17 1/2
New Jersey	27	35	.435	21 1/2
New York	25	36	.410	23
Toronto	23	40	.365	26
Central Division				
x-Cleveland	49	13	.790	—
Detroit	31	30	.508	17 1/2
Chicago	29	34	.460	20 1/2
Milwaukee	30	36	.455	21
Indiana	28	37	.431	22 1/2
Southeast Division				
Orlando	45	16	.738	—
Atlanta	35	28	.556	11
Miami	33	29	.532	12 1/2
Charlotte	28	35	.444	18
Washington	14	49	.222	31
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	41	20	.672	—
New Orleans	39	22	.639	2
Houston	40	23	.635	2
Dallas	38	25	.603	4
Memphis	16	45	.262	25
Northwest Division				
Denver	40	23	.635	—
Utah	39	23	.629	1/2
Portland	39	23	.629	1/2
Minnesota	18	44	.290	21 1/2
Oklahoma City	16	46	.258	23 1/2
Pacific Division				
LA Lakers	50	12	.806	—
Phoenix	34	28	.548	16
Golden State	21	42	.333	29 1/2
LA Clippers	15	48	.238	35 1/2
Sacramento	13	49	.210	37
x-clinched playoff spot				
Yesterday's Games				
Atlanta 87, Detroit 83				
Charlotte 114, New York 105				
New Orleans 108, Oklahoma City 90				
Milwaukee 127, Golden State 120				
Indiana 106, Los Angeles Clippers 105				
Portland 95, Minnesota 93				
Dallas 119, Washington 103				
Philadelphia 110, Memphis 105				
Cleveland 99, Miami 89				
HONDA CLASSIC SCORES				
Third Round				
Y.E. Yang	68	65	70	203
Jeff Overton	67	67	70	204
Jeff Klauk	69	68	67	204
Brett Quigley	71	67	67	205
John Rollins	69	68	68	205
Charlie Wi	67	73	65	205
Robert Allenby	66	68	72	206
Will MacKenzie	67	67	72	206
Ben Crane	70	65	71	206
Jason Dufner	72	66	68	206
Mark Calcavecchia	74	67	65	206
Fredrik Jacobson	72	67	67	206
Alex Cejka	71	66	70	207
James Nitties	70	67	70	207
Greg Chalmers	73	64	71	208
Harrison Frazer	72	65	71	208
John Merrick	69	69	70	208
Kevin Streelman	70	68	70	208
David Mathis	68	68	73	209
Rory McIlroy	70	68	71	209
Michael Allen	69	71	69	209
Kent Jones	68	71	70	209
Matt Kuchar	71	70	68	209
Jeff Maggert	70	70	69	209
Darren Clarke	70	71	68	209
Brendon Todd	74	69	66	209
Stewart Cink	67	71	72	210
Steve Marino	69	70	71	210
David Berganio Jr.	71	69	70	210
Sergio Garcia	67	72	71	210
Brandt Jobe	70	70	70	210
Spencer Levin	72	68	70	210
Robert Garrigus	72	70	68	210
Chris Stroud	69	72	69	210
Woody Austin	70	73	67	210
Casey Wittenberg	71	72	67	210
Erik Compton	69	69	73	211
Scott Piercy	72	66	73	211
Davis Love III	73	69	69	211
Nick O'Hern	73	69	69	211
Briny Baird	72	69	71	212
D.A. Points	69	69	74	212
Leif Olson	73	70	69	212
Greg Owen	72	69	71	212
John Mallingier	69	74	69	212
Scott Verplank	73	70	69	212
Lucas Glover	71	70	72	213
Ryan Palmer	73	66	74	213
Brian Gay	72	69	72	213
John Senden	69	73	71	213
Angel Cabrera	67	75	71	213
Todd Hamilton	72	70	71	213
Miguel Angel Jimenez	70	73	70	213
Scott McCarron	72	71	70	213
Justin Leonard	70	73	70	213
George McNeill	71	72	70	213
Brad Adamonis	70	73	70	213
Ernie Els	73	70	70	213
Nicholas Thompson	69	71	74	214
Shaun Micheel	70	71	73	214
Carl Pettersson	72	69	73	214
Marc Leishman	73	70	71	214
Brendon de Jonge	72	70	72	214
Tadd Fujikawa	71	71	73	215
Tim Herron	72	69	74	215
Chris DiMarco	72	70	73	215
Tim Wilkinson	71	71	73	215
Boo Weekley	72	71	72	215
Michael Letzig	70	71	75	216
Johnson Wagner	71	71	74	216
Bart Bryant	70	73	73	216
Chris Riley	68	75	73	216
Gary Woodland	72	70	75	217
Derek Fathauer	73	69	75	217
Brian Bateman	69	73	75	217
Rocco Mediate	73	67	77	217
Nathan Green	69	71	77	217
Steve Lowery	72	71	75	218

The Week in Sports

Pro beach volleyball players hit Saipan

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Saipan students had their best week as they got a chance to meet professional beach volleyball players and cheer for their respective home teams during the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League.

Beijing Olympics gold medalist Phil Dalhausser led two other U.S. pros in visiting Saipan International, Ladera International School, and Saipan Community School as part of the group's promotion of the 17th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival.

Joining Dalhausser in meeting students from three schools were Jennifer Snyder and Paul Baxter. The U.S. pros entertained questions from students,

which usually asked about Dalhausser's Olympics experience.

Dalhausser teamed up with Todd Rogers in lifting the U.S. team to a gold-medal win against Brazil in last year's Beijing Olympics.

The three U.S. pros were first to arrive on Saipan for the Marianas Cup. They were later joined by fellow pros from Japan and Korea, and another returnee—Jenelle Koester.

These pros also conducted clinics for kids and played in exhibition games at the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

Over at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, the private school league held its playoff round for the boys and girls junior varsity division.

Grace Christian Academy defeated Mt. Carmel in the finals, 22-14, to take the girls junior varsity crown.

Saipan International School won its first championship in the boys' junior varsity after whipping the MCS Knights, 49-33.

The GCA Lady Eagles cruised to an 32-11 semis win over Seventh Day Adventist, while the Lady Knights downed Saipan Community School, 32-18, to set a title duel with GCA.

In the boys' semifinals, SIS prevailed over SDA via forfeit, while Mt. Carmel dethroned 2008 champion GCA with a 55-54 win.

In other news in basketball, the CNMI Nationals remained top of the standings in the 2008-2009 BAN-MI/Budweiser Basketball League following a 99-77 rout of Diamond Auto Care.

The win was the Nationals' seventh in eight games, putting them a victory

ahead of second placer IT&E (6-3).

In the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League at the Garapan Basketball Court, MBI, Inchcape and Athlete's Foot secured playoffs slots after gaining separates wins.

In golf, Tars Olopai took the RGA February Ace after his net 66 went unbeaten during the club's tournament at Marianas Country Club.

In the Budweiser 2009 Saipan Major League, the Tanapag Falcons and Ford Rangers finally made it into the win column, but Rock Steady remained on top of the leaderboard.

The Falcons notched a 5-2 victory over the Young Guns Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Young Guns dropped to a 0-2 start after a 5-10 loss to Rock Steady,

which improved to a 2-0 record.

Benwachi Taisacan made the first homerun of the season to lead the Ford Rangers to a 15-6 blowout of Korean Phoenix. The Rangers bowed to Rock Steady in their first game, 5-6.

Still in baseball, the San Roque D'9ers prevailed in a low-scoring game over the Ol'Aces, 2-1, in the Big League Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball.

The win was the D'9ers second in three starts, while the loss was the Ol'Aces first in two games.

The D'9ers opened their title campaign on a winning note with an 8-7 triumph over Team Aztecs last Feb. 21, but lost to defending champion Tanapag Falcons, 1-4, last Feb. 26.

In another Big League game, the Aztecs rallied past the Hustlers, 8-5.



Phil Dalhausser, second right, talks to Saipan Community School students. Looking on are, from left, Jennifer Snyder, Paul Baxter, and former NMIVA president Jon Cramer.



Students pose with Korean pro volleyball players during a clinic at the Pacific Islands Club sand court.



GCA's Crista Cristobal, left, looks for a teammate, as she is guarded by Mt. Carmel's Kalani Lebría during their title game in the private school caging Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



The SIS Geckos' Chris Camacho takes his time from the free throw line during their title game against Mt. Carmel in the private school caging Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Mt. Carmel top players Kalani Lebría, center, and Chris Mizer show their trophies and medals. Joining them is Chris mother, Thelma.



Two Athlete's Foot defenders wait for the Rollers' Zack Tudela to make a move during their game in the Navy Hill caging last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.



The CNMI Nationals' Marvin Rabauliman goes for a hooked shot against Diamond's Mel Capalad during their game in the Budweiser caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



The Ford Rangers' Mel Sakisat prepares to deliver a pitch during their game against the Korean Phoenix last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



T.O. signs \$6.5M deal with Buffalo

Terrell Owens needed only two days to find another place to play. The Buffalo Bills decided to take a chance on the talented but high-maintenance receiver, signing Owens to a \$6.5 million, one-year deal Saturday.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Pro beach volleyball players hit Saipan

Saipan students had their best week as they got a chance to meet professional beach volleyball players and cheer for their respective home teams during the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

US pros undefeated in exhibition games



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ, JR.

Phil Dalhausser, left, blocks a Korean pro beach volleyball player during their exhibition game for the 17th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival Friday at the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Phil Dalhausser and Paul Baxter spent more time signing autographs and smiling to the cameras than playing in

SIS, GCA win junior varsity crowns

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Eventual most valuable player Christopher Camacho played one of his best games of the season to lead Saipan International School to its first championship in the boys' division.

The Geckos beat Mt. Carmel School, 49-35, in the junior varsity finals in the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.

Camacho scored his first basket in the game with a buzzer-beating putback on his own miss. His basket ended the first quarter with the Geckos leading, 16-4.

The sleek all-around player finished with a game high 14 points, including 12 in a decisive 27-12 run that gave the Geckos their biggest lead at 25

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also grabbed some of the attention, specifically from their countrymen who are based on Saipan.

exhibition games.

The pros from Japan and Korea

Dalhausser and Baxter needed less than an hour to dispose off their opponents, duplicating the same easy wins posted by compatriots Jennifer Snyder and Jenelle Koester in the women's side

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NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ, JR.

The SIS Geckos pose for a group photo after beating Mt. Carmel in the finals of the private school caging Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ, JR.

The GCA Lady Eagles and their supporters celebrate after downing Mt. Carmel in the finals.

Baxter-Toner tandem clinches first finals berth

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The tandem of U.S. pro Paul Baxter and Hugo Toner clinched the first championship berth in the men's division of the 17th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival after sweeping four

matches in the winner's bracket, including a 21-19 decision against the duo of Olympic gold medalist Phil Dalhausser and Tyce Myster yesterday.

Baxter and Toner opened their campaign with an overwhelming 24-4 victory against the tandem of Dan Westphal

and Peter Valdez before an appreciative crowd at the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

Baxter and Toner won their second match against two Japanese players, 24-22, and then defeated Jeff Elliot and Cris Nelson, 21-19, before snapping

See BAXTER on Page 26

CNMI strikers leave today for EAFF tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI National Football Team will leave for Guam today to participate in the preliminary

competition for the East Asian Football Championship 2010.

The Commonwealth will be sending 20 players to the preliminary competition, which will run from March 11 to 15 at the Leo Palace Resort.

The CNMI National Team is

composed of Evan Hunsberger, Yoshi Gabaldon, David Dueñas, Nick Swaim, Brad Ruszala, Steve McKagan, Ben Wood, Joe Miller, Gilmark Reusora, Jeffrey Cloud, Peter Houk, Dale Roberts, Jason Schroeder, Lu-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Chris Nelson saves the ball during the CNMI Junior National Football Team's training session at the Oleai Sports Complex field last week.